

The
Inyo-
Mono **NEWS-
LETTER**

• **APRIL**
75¢

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sharp professionals
covers the hard news
of the Eastern
Sierra. P.14

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water
board:*

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A ROUGH
START P.28

OUR KIDS CAN'T
2PELL.

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P.16



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COVER:

Cameraman Dave Butler of CVP-12 zooms in on the action at a broadcasting of a Bishop City Council meeting. See page 14 for more on the media boom.

The NEWS-LETTER

Inyo and Mono

A News Alternative Eastern Sierra News Service

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Andrew and Leah Kirk

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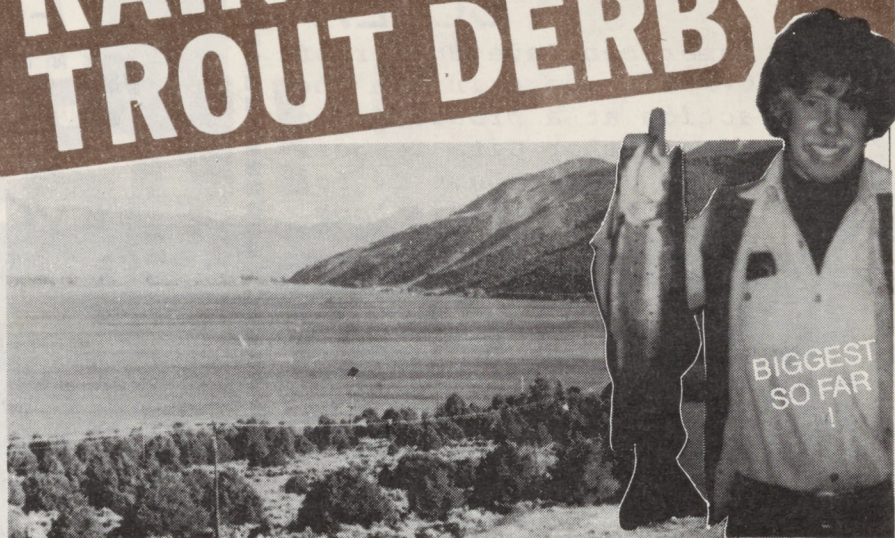
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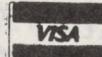
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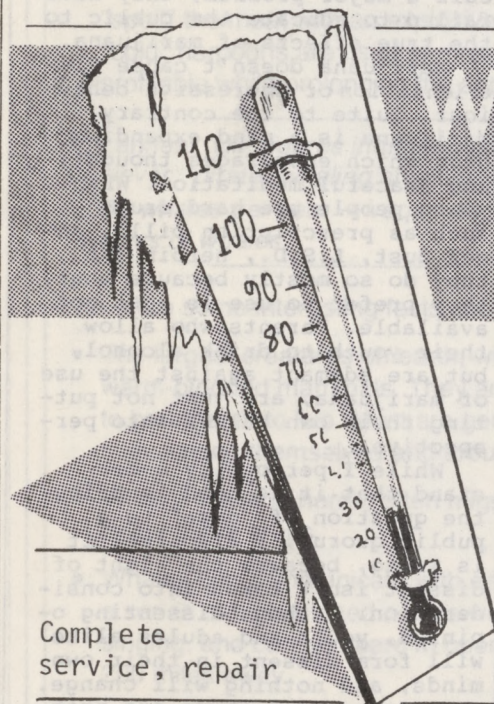


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FORUM your view



The News-Letter welcomes readers' letters and comments relevant to public issues. Letters should be brief and concisely stated. The editors remind readers that publication of a letter does not necessarily imply either the editor's agreement with its content, or its accuracy. Address letters to PO Box 531, Independence, California 93526.

John Heston, editor

WALLY'S 'MAFIA' ONLY A BUNCH OF HIGH FLYERS?

Dear Editor -

In your December, 1980 issue, Wally Charleston made statements about E.L. Maner's 'Watchdog Committee'. As a member of this committee I feel they deserve comment.

1. Since E.L.'s installation we have held regular meetings every Monday noon at the Captain's Table in Mammoth Lakes. This fact as well as how to contact members of the Committee was reported in the Review.

2. The name was changed to 'District Five Citizen's Advisory Committee' to accurately reflect the complete purpose of the Committee. This includes the ability for District Five constituents to input to their supervisor; something we feel was lacking previously.

3. E.L. received about 2/3's of the vote for his office. I feel this is approximately reflected in the make-up of the Committee.

4. The Review's Mrs. Murphy was not referring to this Committee when she used the expression 'Maner's Mafia'. This was a 'tongue-in-cheek' reference to several of us who share E.L.'s interest in flying. If Charleston had any altruistic or public-interest motives, or any fact-finding ability he could easily have learned the correct information.

I see you have a featured column titled 'View from the Right'. To achieve balance you should re-title Charleston's column 'View from the Wrong'.

James M. Stewart
Mammoth Lakes

Editor's note: A check with Mammoth Publisher Jay Cole reveals that indeed Mr. Stewart is correct about "Mrs. Murphy's" intent and the general tone and thrust of her column. Although News-Letter is not quite ready to re-name Mr. Charleston's column as suggested, the editor extends a light slap on the wrist to his Mammoth columnist. Our thanks to reader Stewart for (1) his interest, and (2) his effort at keeping us honest.

FROM OLANCHA'S GRASS-LANDS, A WORD ABOUT KIDS AND DOPE

Dear Sir:

I have been reading your News-Letter as often as I can find it. The only place I find it available is at Joseph's in Lone Pine.

While I have always found it interesting, I have to suggest that it is becoming more and more biased and less and less informative. I sincerely believe that one is the cause of the other.

I know that it would be very unpopular to print opposition to the "Kids and Dope" feature in your December issue, but I am willing to have my name put on it, if you are willing to print it.

The following is the answer to the so-called problem, as the "silent majority" see it.

Allen H. Weston
Olancha

(Editor's note: News-Letter is happy to publish reader Weston's thoughts and although scientific studies conclude that his basic premise is incorrect, his is a popularly-held view among many of today's self indulgent youth. Weston's piece, edited only to correct spelling, follows:)

The current drive to eradicate the use of marijuana is and will be as unsuccessful as trying to put out a fire with a bucket of gasoline.

Frequent arrests and social demeaning of people who use any drug, whether it be alcohol or heroine is more of a cause than a cure. Anytime you try to tell anyone that if they don't do anything, or that if they don't look at the world exactly as you do, you are going to "punish" them, there is no doubt that their response will be negative. Religious theories of the free agency of man and the constitutional edict of individual freedom are based on this principle.

This being true, it is somewhat absurd to place the responsibility of correcting what is being called a "problem" such as "dope" in the hands of law enforcement. I firmly believe that law enforcement is more of a cause than a help.

To start with, parents and

teachers should realize that the youth of today, even if they lack the experience to act according to the norm, definitely possess the courage to live their lives according to that knowledge which they do possess. Parents should never assume that their children will do as they say without that conviction that what they say is correct.

To lie to today's youth about marijuana only demonstrates that you as parents are the ones who are ignorant.

To start with, anyone who doesn't admit that alcohol is far more damaging, both physically and socially than marijuana is lying, or is just plain ignorant. People die on the highways, in bars, and in family disputes, from the over-use of alcohol, yet alcohol remains legal and even socially accepted.

Sgt. Lewis and Sgt. Clyde George have alerted the public that 80% of the high school students use marijuana, yet we never hear that such use has resulted in any of the deaths mentioned above, because while they have alerted the public to what they call a major problem, they have failed to educate the public to the true effects of marijuana.

Marijuana doesn't cause disorientation or aggressive behaviour. Quite to the contrary. Marijuana is a mind expanding drug which encourages thought, and peaceful meditation. When young people use hard drugs such as prescription pills, angel dust, L.S.D., heroin etc., they do so mostly because what they prefer to use is just not available. Parents who allow their youth to drink alcohol, but are adamant against the use of marijuana, are just not putting their own values into perspective.

While I personally understand that it is good to bring the question of "dope" to a public quorum, I also feel it is wrong, because the right of dissent isn't taken into consideration. Without dissenting opinion, youth and adults alike will form dissent in their own minds, and nothing will change.

I agree that there are problems, but we had better find out just what the problems are "before" we try to solve them.



Thinking on Things

Whales : The Tragic Facts

(Editor's note: Again this year the International Whaling Commission meets to set "quotas" on whale killing. The US' Whale Protection Fund seeks public help in pressuring Russia and Japan into voting for a whaling moratorium.)

The killing of whales is, perhaps, mankind's darkest hour. These magnificent creatures, which have taken millions of years to evolve, are being mercilessly hunted and slaughtered by Japan, the Soviet Union, South Korea, Iceland and a handful of other nations in defiance of a call for a world-wide whaling moratorium. Here are some of the grim facts of whale killing.

1. **Modern whaling is big business.** Huge convoys of ships roam the seas surrounding Antarctica searching for their prey. These fleets are equipped with sonar, helicopters, long-range harpoons and factory ships which can reduce a 30-foot whale to a memory in less than one hour.
2. **Whaling is not humane.** Although searching for whales is highly sophisticated, the actual whale killing is barbaric. The whale is killed by a 200-pound, six-foot-long iron harpoon, shot from a 90 mm cannon. And for the small minke whale, rather than "spoil" the meat with an explosive harpoon, several "cold" harpoons are used to make the catch more profitable while prolonging the agony of death.

The annual "kill" figures indicated only represent the "quotas" established by the International Whaling Commission. However, "pirate" whaling ships, operating outside of the limited control of the IWC, slaughter an additional 4,000-5,000 whales per year — frequently killing nursing mothers and their young, as well as the most severely endangered species of whales.

Here are some interesting facts about whales:

- The largest creatures on earth, whales are warm-blooded mammals. They are not fish and need to breathe air to live. Most are gentle, even playful, both among themselves and around man.
- Whales travel in herds, often migrating year after year to the same areas.
- Whales can communicate with each other by creating a series of high pitched noises which sound like singing, and can be heard in open waters more than 200 miles away.
- The blue whale is the largest of all whales:
 - larger than 30 elephants
 - it weighs more than 2,000 people
 - its heart weighs 1200 pounds
 - its tongue weighs 1/3 ton
 - some arteries are so large a small child could crawl

3. **Whales are slaughtered to provide products for which there are substitutes.** Whales are killed for animal feed, industrial oils, fertilizer, perfume, soap, shampoo, gelatine and margarine, to name just a few. Inexpensive and plentiful substitutes exist for each of these whale by-products.
4. **The rate of whale killing during the past 10 years has been alarming.** On the average, one whale is killed every 25 minutes — over 58 every day. During 1980-81 almost 20,000 whales will be killed. And all ten species of great whales have been reduced to the point where each is threatened, in varying degrees, with extinction.

Many of the world's great whales are, literally, fading out of the picture. We need your immediate help if we are to protect the remaining whales from the whaler's harpoons. Please help us to work for a total end to commercial whaling by signing a petition and sending your tax-deductible contribution to:

The Whale Protection Fund
% Center for Environmental Education
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Washington, D.C. 20006

through them

- a newborn calf weighs 2 tons and is 25 feet long
- Whales normally "cruise" at about 6 knots — approximately twice as fast as a person usually walks. They are capable, in short bursts, of speeds up to 15-20 knots and have been known to pace large ocean liners.
- The brain of the sperm whale is, perhaps, the most complex brain ever evolved on earth. And there is no doubt that these complicated brains are used for intelligent, complex communications.

("Thinking on
Things" continues
on the next page)





LEA KARRAS

GABRIELLE WAUGH

POEMS

Unresigned

*I like to think about people who care
about their fellows;
care about this shrunken world
so eaten up by the greedy ones.
Care that children of today
will never enjoy the bounty
we have accepted without question.
Will never see certain animals
who are now dying out in zoos;
whose own children may never see
an elephant or a tiger.
We send our pitiful little dollar
to keep the whales and dolphins living,
and write letters to foreign governments
begging them to stop their killing;
and we go on, hoping, despairing.*

*I like to think there is someone out there
who does care that many drive unsafe cars.
I blush for those who belittle
their efforts;
who lobby Congress to shelve such bills.
The auto industry knows it may forget
safety measures for a while.
Air bags, for example; no sense in
holding back profits.
Elections must be financed by profits.*

*I like to think of the
strong fighting spirits
of women
whose rights may be lost for
four more years.*

*But women do not resign,
they continue to work, stoking fires,
knowing progress must not grow cold.
I will tell my granddaughters to say,
"This one is for Lea," as they toast
our future victory.
I have joy now at the thought of it.*

*I like to think that for all who do not care
about the less fortunate,
there are those who have a selfless love
for humanity.
Those who will not forget the woman
raising her children with only the help*

*society grudgingly provides.
Those who care that these children
cannot get proper nutrition
on the meager fare of food-stamp food.*

*I like to think of people
who have compassion.
They are my hope for the future.*

- LEA KARRAS

Peonies

*never such a flower
had to feel them
couldnt be real
ruffled pale magnificence
so i asked the woman
if i could have some tomorrow
sure very early i picked a few
she was not awake
pastel tumbling blossoms
unearthly
put in vases on tables
for my party
at my door she stood there angry
no one touches my peonies
how dare you pick them
innocent loveliness of the flowers
heard her
silent in their cut glass bowls*

- GABRIELLE WAUGH

Liquidambar

*Lovely tree, your name rolls on my tongue,
a pale fragrance of maple.
Spring-green garments cling to sensualize
the whiteness left for April.*

*Aweave with wind, passion and tremor,
slivery whispers swallowed by the sod;
you glory in the darkness and the light
impervious to man's laws made for God.*

*Now, fall leaves dance round your young form
to a palette background of sapphire.
Did ocean speck alone evolve perfection
with seasons' promises of new attire?*

*You undress gently, waft your burnished coat,
prepare the sleep of your infinity.
I'll guard your bonewhite skeleton with love,
and feast upon the winter of your nudity.*

- Lea Karras

when i go out with the artists

when i go out with the artists
it restores my soul
we sit in pastures
among flaming autumn trees
painting in silence
blessed comfort of color
upon the pale canvas
gathering together hungry
we talk
of using grey purple against bright pink
of leaving a space between roof and tree
admire or correct anothers work
when i go out with the artists
my cup runneth over

- gabrielle waugh

Thinking on Things



JOHN HESTON *Random thoughts*

Santayana...
is "some kind of
wind that starts
fires in Orange
County."

Elsewhere in these pages the reader will find (perhaps to his dismay) a lengthy report on the state (not good) of "education," or the lack of it, in the schools of the Eastern Sierra. The story - actually a lament - was carefully gleaned from the fields of local school districts by *News-Letter's* concerned columnist and radio reporter, Benett Kessler. Kessler herself, though not too many years out of school, demonstrates in her own life that to be young is not necessarily to be uneducated - though according to her report on the dismal direction education is taking, "youth" and "illiteracy", if not precisely synonymous, live ever more closely together these days in a kind of slough of sloth and self-indulgence.

Unfortunately, many of the parents of the youngsters involved are themselves not so well educated as to bother to read much beyond the first few paragraphs. Often their own interests - and reading levels - go no further than the sports pages.

The implications of the Kessler story should and will burst shatteringly upon the minds of the intelligent and the concerned, for these are the ones, themselves "educated", who understand the broader social aspects of generalized illiteracy and self-indulgence among youth. They have a sense of history, and they are more concerned with what

happens in the science and art departments than occurs (with brutalizing effect) on the football field. They also understand the need, now a desperate one, for ethics and aesthetics in sustaining culture and country. When they speak out, though, no one that holds the purse strings seems to have an ear tuned (by way of educated insight) to what they have to say.

Why are the kids - and "kids" is what they are - so turned off by our present processes of education?

George Santayana had something to say about it in his turn-of-the-century collection of Harvard essays, *The Sense of Beauty*:

Things are interesting because we care about them, and important because we need them. Had our perceptions no connections with our pleasures, we should soon close our eyes on this world; if our intelligence were of no service to our passions, we should come to doubt, in the lazy freedom of reverie, whether two and two make four.

(By way of footnote here we might say that of 23 college graduates asked about Santayana, only one under 35 had ever heard of him, another thought he was a town in southern California, another thought him to be some kind of Indian war-

Continued next page

Random Thoughts Continued

rior, and yet another believed Santayana was "some kind of wind that causes fires in Orange County.")

If our "interests", in the Santayana meaning of the term, are purely recreational, profit and pleasure oriented, and if our "needs" in that same sense are purely self-indulgent, then "education" is truly on its way out.

If our "passions" are already fulfilled (Kessler writes about the Inyo-Mono kids' scot-free indulgences in dope, alcohol, sex, cars, etc.) then we need no educational background or insights to acquire those things, so who needs "school"? Santayana mentions the "lazy freedom of reverie" - a half century before television's ratings-oriented, nonsensical pap.

Where are we headed? The answer would cause alarm in a society better educated than ours: Perhaps toward a kind of Roman decay, or worse still, a truly "elitist" society. The latter condition, or one similar to it, can actually occur, or may already be occurring. For, after all, even as Kessler states, there remain "a few" who are "smart," who do study and who do learn, but only in the purely technical sense, since "ethics" is no longer a part of the curriculum, nor is "religion."

Without ethical direction the "smart" ones and the "educated" ones (tomorrow's corporate elite? - or tomorrow's political PR people?) will undoubtedly know enough to enslave the ignorant and unconcerned ones, or those weakened by dope or other consciousness-lowering substances.

We have pampered and spoiled and indulged our youth beyond imagining. (Even as Kessler worked on her story thoughtless and ignorant high school boys, one of them the son of a public official, had nothing better to do at 9:30 p.m. than to be knocking on doors - then running away yelling obscenities - in an otherwise peaceful neighborhood.)

Maybe we need another real jolt. Back in the somnolent and social do-nothing days of the Eisenhower administration (Ike promised - and delivered - nothing more than his campaign pledge, "Peace and Prosperity"), the Russians stole a march on us: Before we could get to the drawing board, or even understand the need for a drawing board, the USSR launched a first space satellite, the "Sputnik." It shook us out of our educational slough of despond and into a renewed awareness of the need for engineers and physics - science.

In merchant terms that shock brought us quite a distance. But socially, it accomplished practically nothing, people continued to starve, but it did create a dandy industrial-military complex which alarmed even the complacent Ike.

Finally, it may be that "education" and its proper applications and uses are dependent first upon a social morality and sense of ethics. It is physically and psychologically impossible to "learn" without a controlled discipline in the classroom. And it is physically and psychologically impossible to apply "education" in other than socially harmful ways without a social discipline and morality.

"Spare the rod and spoil the child"

"As the twig is bent, so grows the tree."

Sagely words from sagely lips, those - but who reads the stuff of which sages are made?

It is said that a two-by-four is necessary to get the attention of a jackass. It may follow, then, that the "hickory stick" may be required to get the attention of a brat.

For awhile at least, maybe we should reinstate "the rod" as an audio-visual-tangible teaching aid.

What are the solutions? A few largely unheard

and unsung contemporary thinkers and educators have provided a few suggestions with which News-Letter agrees:

1. Quit underestimating kids' ability to learn; they can handle Plato, Shakespeare, "the classics," etc.

2. Limit television watching to a few "good" shows a week.

3. Demand that team athletes maintain a B-plus average in scholastic work, or bump them off the team.

4. Re-establish the pass-fail policy in school work. Advance students according to merit, fail those who won't study and apply themselves.

5. Assign "homework" for every class, every day, with heavy emphasis on the writing of themes and essays.

6. Establish early curfews which keep kids off the streets.

7. Limit automobile ownership, thus effecting a savings of fuel and a conservation of energy.

8. Provide mandatory jail sentences for anyone who "sells, delivers or conveys" any alcoholic beverage or narcotic to anyone under 21 years old.

9. Fire, or re-educate, permissive educators or teachers not tough enough to maintain order and respect in classrooms or on school grounds. Test the writing-spelling proficiency of all teachers.

10. Allocate educational funds according to scholastic performance averages that would be measured by written examinations by the state.

Sound tough? Well, maybe, but think about this one: The elected leaders of the 1990's will probably serve you better, and more honestly, if they can write a simple english sentence and if they know something of ethics. They are the people who will largely direct and influence your life and your pocketbook in the years to come.

-JH

BOOKS LEA KARRAS

A GLORIOUS THIRD by Cynthia Propper Seton (W. W. Norton & Co., \$8.95)

A little jolt to take our feet off the beaten track and turn us in a slightly different direction often affords a delightful change of scenery. Such is the effect Seton achieves with her latest novel, A GLORIOUS THIRD.

The title refers to the last third of a woman's life which the heroine, Cecilia, is determined shall be lived her way.

The feminist viewpoint follows us around as we read, but the nudge off the usual "woman question" track is led up to and finally articulated by Cecilia saying she believes one must "...restore the dignity of private life." She shrinks from having her own life spread out for the world to approve or disapprove.

This book, while it does not delve deeply into characterization, does enough to have us enjoy Cecilia's moments of assertiveness and feel anger when she backs down and allows other women to run her life.

Seton holds our attention and writes with a dry humor we can catch only if we are alert. Enjoyable reading. Her puns also are there very tongue-in-cheek, and fun to find for yourself.

- LK

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ECONOMIC VIEWS

GOOD GUYS VERSUS BAD GUYS

In movie melodramas, the heroes and villains wore white or black hats, respectively, to distinguish themselves from each other. While not as clear-cut as those battles between good and evil, today's stock market skirmishes for supremacy have arrayed the interest-sensitive Good Guys against the commodity-oriented Bad Guys.

If the interest-sensitive group prevails, presumably this virtuous triumph would represent success in reducing inflation and interest rates, restoring financial liquidity, movement toward a balanced budget and fiscal responsibility, a stronger dollar, better control over growth of the money supply, reduced government spending accompanying a reasoned new tax package, etc., etc.

This litany of desirable goals is in sharp contrast with the type of developments that might now accompany the return of commodity issues to the top of the hit parade. The latter might include runaway price inflation, excessive credit demands, depreciating currency, shortages and hoarding, and a lot of other undesirable offshoots.

In the current market drift, neither sector is making much upside headway. However, slowly and surely since November the

interest-sensitive sector has overcome continued skepticism and has supplanted the pro-inflation group as the market leader. Since this has been achieved in the face of a continuing chorus of forecasts of higher interest rates and against a backdrop of slightly stronger economic numbers and money growth than originally projected, it is a particularly noteworthy accomplishment. As such, it justifies our continued enthusiasm for interest-sensitive and defensive consumer growth stocks until they become more universally endorsed and fully priced.

FOR INYO-MONO RESIDENTS: A POSSIBLE MX BENEFIT.

There's no doubt that Lone Star Industries is the biggest producer of cement in the United States. Management is so committed to the belief that cement demand is going to grow rapidly in this decade that it sold off all its money-making do-it-yourself home repair outlets and put the proceeds into cement and related products. The company acquired Utah Portland Cement of Salt Lake City, entering a new and potentially dynamic

(Mr. Taylor is manager of the Bishop office of Dean Witter Reynolds, Inc.)

market. Since the proposed site of the MX missile complex is near or in parts of Utah, Nevada, and Arizona, and since the amount of cement that will be needed for the dispersal range will far exceed the amount of cement used in building the Hoover Dam, Lone Star could be an important beneficiary of the MX program.

We recommend the purchase of Lone Star Industries at (33 5/8) (as the month opened) for the long pull. We estimate earnings per share of about \$5.20 for 1980 and anticipate \$5.60 for 1981. Thereafter, Lone Star's earnings should grow dynamically, perhaps reaching \$10 a share by 1985.

ENERGY NOTES FOR THE EIGHTIES:

American oil and natural gas production is up. Oil output in the lower 48 states - which has been on a downward trend since 1970 - is much closer to stabilizing now than in the last several years.

Oil and gas drilling is breaking all-time records.

Coal production is rising faster than expected one year ago, although the unexpected increase may be due to higher exports and stockpiling rather than to higher domestic consumption.

Many different shale and other synfuel projects are under way.

Americans were using seven percent less oil in 1980 than in 1979.

Oil imports are running well below a year ago. Two months ago, imports reached the lowest October level since 1975.

The above data is from the American Petroleum Institutes year-end report which went on to conclude, "If this country decides now to keep moving in the right direction, we Americans can turn the promising signs of 1980 production and consumption into sharply lower oil imports for the 1990's."

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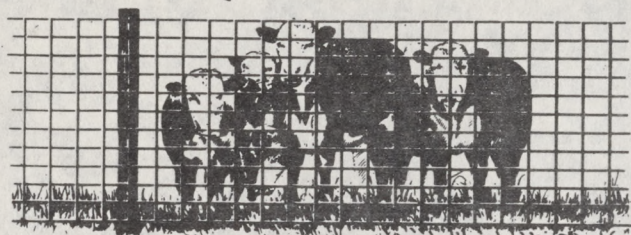
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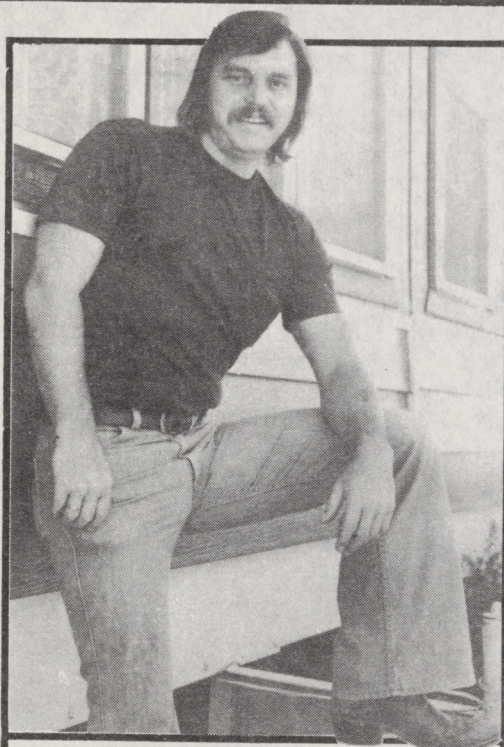


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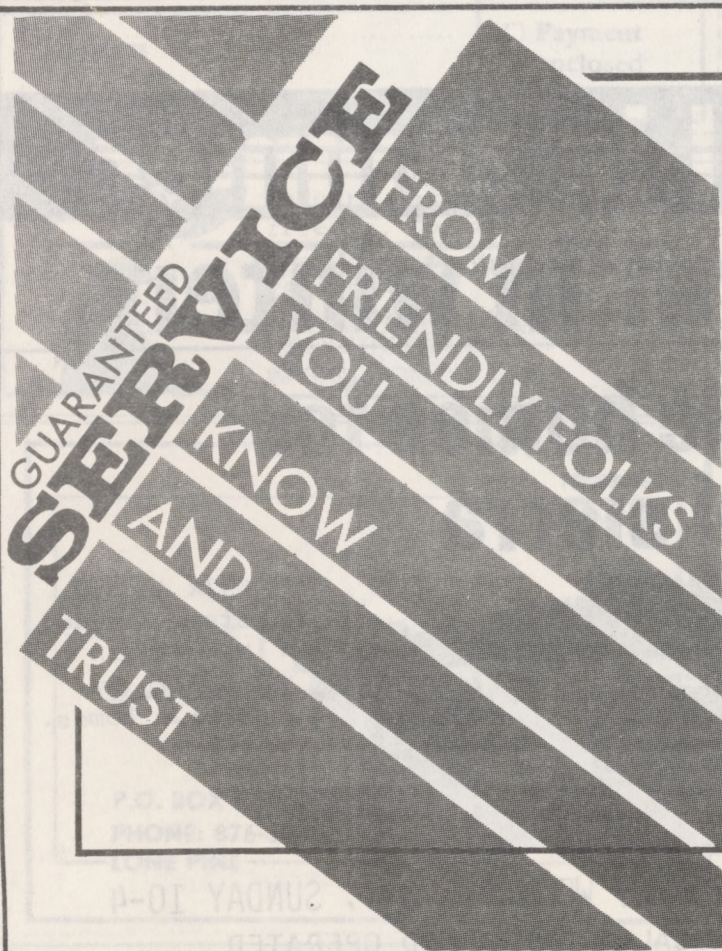
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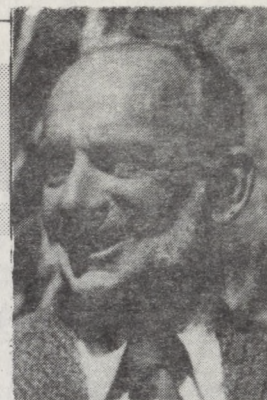
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View from the Right



Paul
Payne

WHERE SHOULD THE MONEY GO? - INTO THE GROUNDWATER FIGHT OR TOWARD SOLVING THE JUVENILE CRIME PROBLEM? PAUL PAYNE, THE KEELER PROPERTY RIGHTS CRUSADER, POINTS OUT THAT A FEW PEOPLE, AT LEAST, ARE LESS THAN ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT GROUNDWATER AND THE ENVIRONMENT; THEY WANT COPS, COURTS AND JAILS.

As of the date of this discourse, no direct comment has been received as to the questions posed to Inyo's Supervisors by this writer in his last diatribe relating to juvenile crime and the much needed correctional facilities.

Apparently the astute body of local governmental wisdom is most reluctant to let their position be known to us less knowledgeable citizens who only pay the bills for their safaris far afield from the duties and responsibilities which are those of governments.

To clarify the position of this writer, any government's only lawful responsibilities and duties are to protect its citizens in their lives and properties from their enemies; provide police and military; provide reasonable laws for the enforcement of this protection; provide a court system for the adjudication of these laws and the meting out of appropriate punishment for those who would violate the laws; remove from society those who can not abide those laws (prison system).

Our society has shifted the responsibility of crime prevention from the family unit to the government. This function has been assigned to our court system and its probation department. If the legislative branch of government then fails to provide the funds required by the courts to properly function in their crime prevention efforts, then do not they, the legislators (Inyo County's Board of Supervisors), become a party to the juvenile crime problem so rampant in our county? Let us hope that our Board of Supervisors will no longer put off meeting this desperately needed juvenile correctional facility.

Could it be that our supervisors have given a clear answer to those previously pondered questions concerning juvenile crime detention facilities for Inyo County? Not only did they answer the questions in the negative, but they let those of us who live outside the Owens Valley Ground Water

Basin know that our tax monies are to be spent on a safari into the courts against the City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power regardless of any benefits to be derived by many of us who live outside of the basin area and must pay the bills.

This safari is to be an expensive one! Not only will the new county counsel be involved but his assistant also; and, to add insult onto injury, a special counsel has been hired at the very "modest sum" of \$65 per hour. So, just to do a little speculating, maybe we can get by for \$10,000 a month, including expenses. We know that the very minimum time that will be required to complete this safari will be at least two years. So that is \$240,000 to attempt to protect the existing flora and fauna of a very small portion of Inyo County. Wouldn't that sum of money provide our much needed juvenile facilities? Let our supervisors remember; there is much more to Inyo County than a small portion of the Owens Valley.

To insert another thought before we proceed. Animal and plant life always adjust to the ever changing environments; ever dying out and being replaced by another as the environment changes. Man alone must alter his environment if he is to survive.

This writer has been accused of favoring the DWP and their water policies in the Owens Valley. He knows for sure that they will manage their properties so as to produce the largest amount of water consistent with good ground management. His concern is not for the DWP but for the protection of the property rights of all Inyo's citizens. Now, if the citizens of a portion of the Owens Valley believe their property rights are being violated, let them band together and take their grievances to the courts. However, don't expect or ask those of us who live and own property outside of the Owens Valley Ground Water Basin to placidly sit back and have our

taxes, which are taken from us under duress for the protection of our persons and property, diverted to a non-governmental function; particularly so when they are used for the purpose of attempting to deprive one of his property rights to which that government is pledged to uphold and protect.

Those of us who live in other parts of Inyo County, and pay our taxes, are as much entitled to governmental services (police protection, courts and criminal detention) as those who live within the Owens Valley Ground Water Basin.

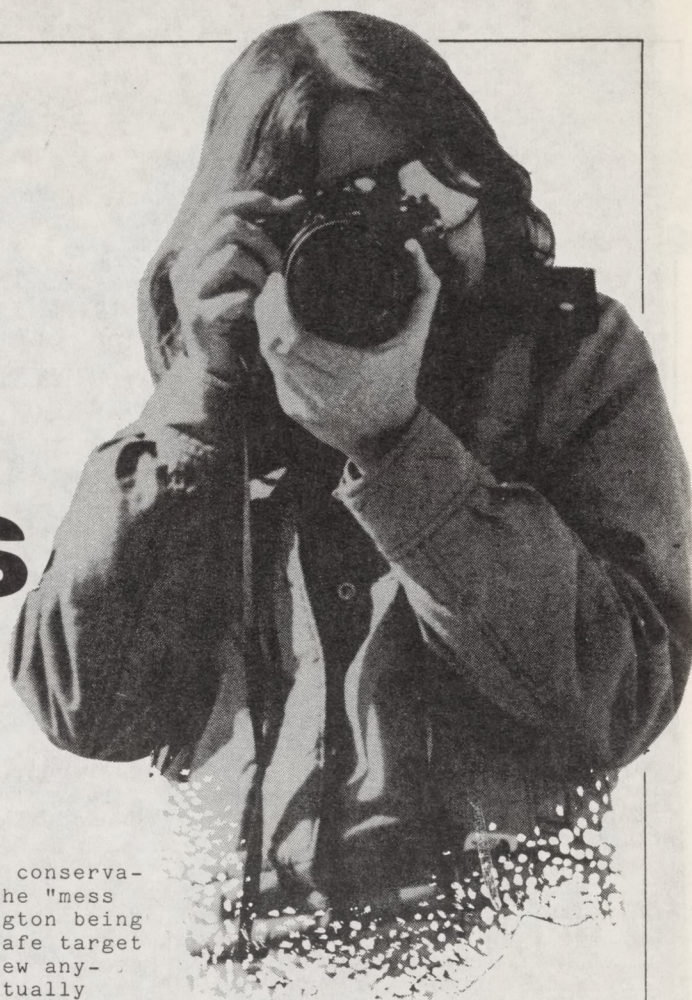
Determination of personal property rights is a civil matter for our courts to settle between those involved. To take tax monies and use them for the personal benefit of any individual or group is an injustice to the rest of us that cannot be tolerated; more particularly so when we are deprived of the proper governmental duties and functions for which our tax monies are taken.

The largest area of our County has only three deputy sheriffs to protect its citizens and their property and these citizens must travel as much as 200 miles in one direction to avail themselves of the courts. Are we really receiving the governmental services to which we are entitled and for which we are being taxed? A look at our neighbor, Nye County, Nevada's largest, and we can see a properly functioning government at work.

Think about it!

THE INYO/MONO MEDIA: NEW DIRECTIONS

"...out of it all - the hirings, the firings, the knee-jerk reactions and quick changes in direction or emphasis - 'the media' of Inyo-Mono has finally begun to sound like a serious public voice..."



For years, as Eastern Sierra people understood it, "the news" was somebody you called up if you wanted an announcement put into one of the Chalfant papers, or broadcast on one of the area's little radio stations.

To a large extent "news" in Inyo-Mono was printed and broadcast by a kind of tacit public permission and (from government agencies) through handouts often published word-for-word as submitted.

The real issues, the real news, of the two counties--and there was more of this, then and now, than many people wished to read about or hear about--went quietly unreported. A fawning press preferred to remain humbly silent, keeping safely distant from controversy. Why, after all, make waves instead of profits?

As for advertising, it was widely regarded by the business community as an infrequently necessary expense. Oftentimes, advertising lineage was bestowed or withheld in approximate ratio to the merchant's approval or disapproval of any current editorial point of view. A few business houses advertised only with the idea of "supporting the local paper" (or radio)--a kind of civic duty neither requiring nor really expecting any great response from the shoppers. Grocery ads, want ads, the legal ads, were about the only insertions expected to bring returns in hard dollars. As for editorial content, much of it amounted to little more than folksy columnar outpourings and the predictably

provincial and suitably conservative railings against the "mess in Washington" --Washington being 3000 miles away and a safe target for those who rarely knew anything about what was actually happening there.

At best, the important local issues and controversies were understated, and, at worst, not reported at all. In the news business it has often proved safer, if less honest, to ignore the fact that "the truth that goes unspoken is the greatest lie of all." And in Inyo-Mono such elevated and abstract metaphysics was lost to the pragmatic necessities of country editing.

What really went on at the courthouse was a matter best left to the private discussions and rumors spread word-of-mouth among businessmen and housewives.

Among the other rare virtues of the local "media" courage and independent thought were not outstandingly conspicuous. Their's was not a driving sense of public service, but rather a pursuit of the advertising dollar, plainly and frankly the editor's paramount consideration, a matter of fiscal survival, a spiritual and moral demise notwithstanding.

At Bishop's KIBS radio, one fellow, John Hemler, sometimes raised a fuss with his "local news" broadcast--but outside Bishop he couldn't be heard. Besides, Hemler, with no professional news training, had never ever covered a story in any town in the world beyond Bishop.

In the early 70's, however, that all began to change.

There are those who believe, perhaps correctly, that the change came with the opening of an obscure and not overly popular little radio station at Lone Pine--KINC. It was an AM outlet with a sunrise-to-sundown license and with a broadcast range barely encompassing the area from Little Lake to Bishop. The station owners, needing "news" to fulfill their federal license requirements, began airing a local newscast provided to them at no cost by tape from Independence. Within a few months, that broadcast, "The Inyo County News," picked up an astonishingly large audience (survey estimates: 64%). But such ratings and spectacular impact proved far too disturbing to the county's entrenched power structures. Soon, the station manager was called in to be harshly reminded that his broadcast tower was situated on DWP-leased land, and that news stories--any news stories other than favorable "plugs"--would result in loss of the tower lease. The management frankly chickened out and fired its news people. (An instant and angry public outcry resulted in the station going broke and having to sell out.)

The DWP had shown its power and its teeth.

But the incident brought into sharp focus the area's critical need, and the people's fer-

vent demand, for comprehensive and complete "hard news" covering local events. As for the broader coverage -- state, national, international news -- Inyo-Mono people had, and will continue to have, the *Los Angeles Times* and television, about all they really want of far-off and usually (to them) irrelevant happenings.

It was not long after 1975-76 that other valley radio managers began to discover that news broadcasts capture not only listeners, but also some unexpected and highly profitable revenues--if, of course, there was anyone around with courage enough to gather the news, to write it honestly, and to speak it. And in that endeavor a few names began to loom large: Bob Wellman, Benett Kessler, Lloyd and Caroline Higuera.

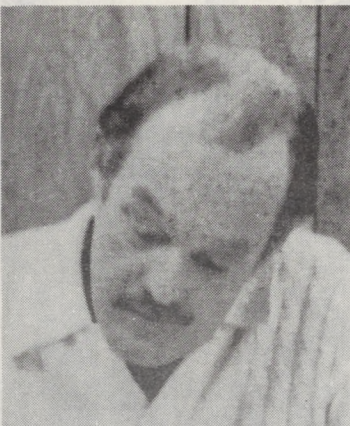
For the emerging "names," and for other serious journalists of Inyo-Mono, the biggest problem and sturdiest obstacle of the 70's became that of "educating" the public to understand just what "hard news" is, and what it is not. The situation was perhaps best exemplified by a woman's call to the news service's Benett Kessler: "I heard that story about me on the radio," she whined, "...and I didn't call in any announcement to be put on the radio...!" The story had been a report about the woman's noisy appearance at a public meeting. The woman was totally unaccustomed to hearing or reading anything in the media that hadn't been "called in"--as if news amounted to nothing more than club notices and obituaries which --always-- were "called in." She, like many others, remained captive to the widely held attitude that news (in the Eastern Sierra, at least) was only what people *permitted* you to print or broadcast. Lately, they have discovered otherwise, but to their benefit.

One of the county's top newsmen, who now optimistically plans to go into the daily newspaper business at Bishop, is the former radioman, Bob Wellman. It was Wellman, along with *News-Letter's* Kessler (and later, Sandy Harrison), who unquestionably brought radio news into its true best potential of public service in the area. For many months--until Wellman was summarily fired by the KIOQ ownership--the daily KIOQ broadcasts ranked unequaled as the single prime news source for Inyo and Mono residents. As the broadcast grew in strength, other stations took notice. And they were more or less pushed into upgrading their own newscasts.

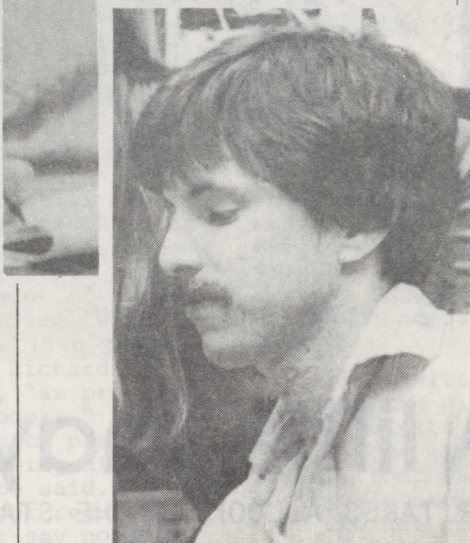
Soon, even the local newspapers took on a new look and, though hesitantly at first, began seriously to provide increasing in-depth local coverage

(very often by copying radio newscasts word-for-word).

At Bishop's KIBS, the management fired John Hemler (the radio business, like show-business does not always operate on loyalty or sentiment) and a new man



Photos:
John Heston



Wellman and Harrison
Going for a daily

was called in. The management then attempted (with only partial success) a talent raid on KIOQ's people: Manager John Young wanted Benett Kessler and Sandy Harrison. And some negotiations and contractual dealings quietly began, but Harrison and Kessler remained with KIOQ. Then for awhile, Young settled for news reports from the Kessler-owned Eastern Sierra News Service. KIBS' new in-house newsmen, John Daley, covered Bishop, and, reinforced by the news service stories, began to build a not inconsiderable audience of his own--one he maintained even after discontinuance of the news service (the contract was dropped as Wellman demanded "exclusive" Kessler coverage). Daley typifies the new, hard-driving genre of reporters recently converging on the Eastern Sierra. At 24, Daley has behind him a respectable amount of professional experience in radio and television in Southern California, Idaho and Minnesota. Since his arrival in May, 1980, Daley has increased his own ratings and he sturdily remains as a major source of local Bishop news.

Meanwhile, the old KINC management at Lone Pine had given way and sold out to a pair of youthful and energetic radio professionals from the Glendale area. So bad had been the station's public image in the period following the DWP-forced news-firing fiasco, that the new managers wisely changed even the station call-letters, from KINC to KNYO. Promptly they began to establish a believable public service-oriented, home-owned and responsive radio station. In their efforts KNYO Manager Lloyd Higuera and his wife Caroline

Continued page 34



KIBS' John Daley at Bishop City Hall

Typifying the new, hard-driving genre

INYO- MONO KIDS:



DO THEY LEARN?

..A little, maybe

BENETT KESSLER TAKES A LOOK AT THE STATE OF EDUCATION

Our future leaders can't spell.

The general mood and consensus of the sixties and seventies concluded that the routine but necessary disciplines of reading, writing, and arithmetic were too confining, a kind of cruel and unusual punishment for the little darlings. Enter the era of "freedom of creative expression"...and exit basic learning. That transition has spawned illiteracy and sloth - a deadly duo that only now are American schools beginning to address, and with little enthusiasm at that.

In California (Inyo-Mono included), recent state-wide testing shows there still exist problems with skills as basic as reading and comprehension and mathematics. State-wide, 12th graders continue to score low in all areas, lower than the national average.

There is no absolute clear-cut evidence to show that the old method of teaching "basic skills" had failed. But in the days when "established" meant "bad," out went the tried and true, and in came things like New Math which, it was discovered 10 years too late, served mostly to confuse instead of enlighten. And it clearly did not serve in preparing youngsters for balancing checkbooks and adding up grocery prices. Colleges began complaining that students were not prepared for higher learning.

In Inyo and Mono Counties some school officials think that those test scores are "inconclusive" since there are "very few students" in

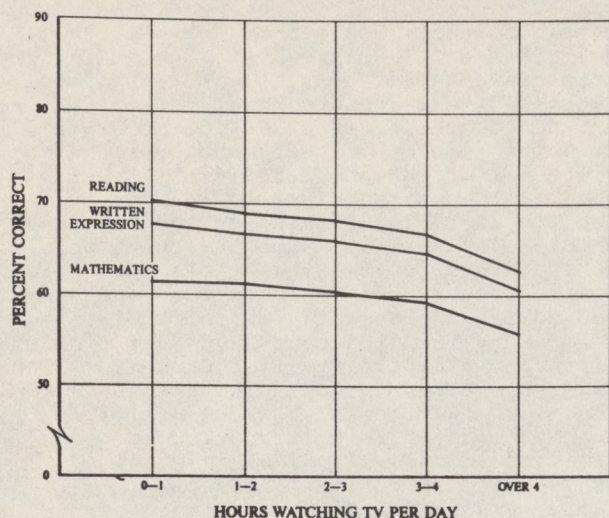
some of the Eastern Sierra schools and up to 50% of these students move and change schools every year.

In both counties, scores in reading, written expression, spelling, and math went up slightly in some grades and districts, and down in others. But if the tests are to be believed nowhere was there any evidence of real excellence in education skills. Statewide, and in some cases in the Eastern Sierra, scores in reading and written expression among twelfth graders continued to drop.

So what's the problem and is anyone doing anything about it?

School officials are unhappily - and silently - aware that education levels are not exactly the greatest. They are now devising tests, hoping to document the situation, for whatever good it will do to prove what is already well known. And what they are specifically finding out is that many students do not know *HOW TO THINK*. Alarmingly, that's what it amounts to. According to the analysis of a recent California assessment program by the Reading Assessment Advisory Committee..."stimulation" is needed in the "teaching of comprehension and thinking skills in all disciplines across the curriculum. This should include instruction in specialized content area vocabularies and higher level thinking skills such as interpreting deeper meanings, detecting the author's purpose, analyzing characters, identifying cause and effect relationships, pre-

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AND TELEVISION VIEWING
ACCORDING TO SUBJECT MATTER AREA — GRADE 6



dicting consequences, testing hypotheses, and evaluating outcomes." Higher level thinking skills? Higher at least when compared with no thinking at all.

How can citizens of a nation do much of anything responsibly when they can't reason or think? Besides a disastrous past relaxing of school curriculum, education faces still other foes. Few deny the phenomenon of TV watching as pre-emptive of reading and studying. According to the statewide assessment, "a negative relationship was found between the amount of time students indicated they spent watching television and the scores they attained." (See graphs)

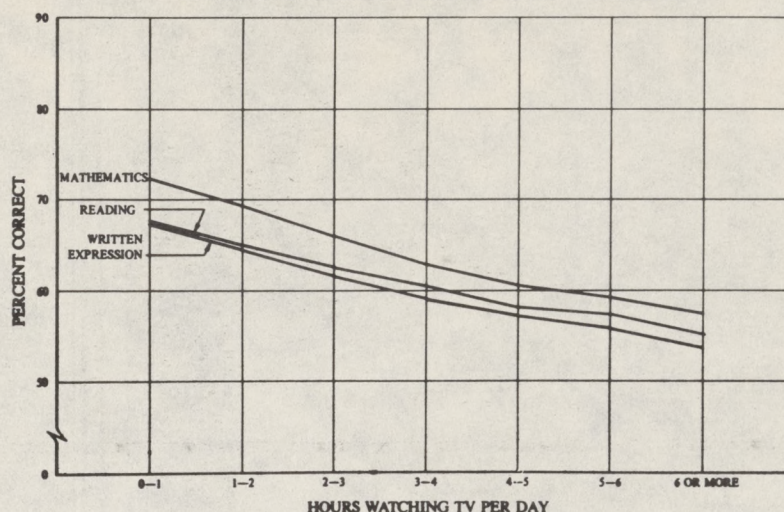
Mammoth schools Vice-Principal Richard McAteer agrees. "I believe that," he said, "as prevalent as TV is, fewer kids are reading books." McAteer thinks the problem must be handled by parents since kids do their television viewing at home. "It's a parent-awareness thing," he said. "A lot of parents are working and so do not regulate the TV watching. Others just don't say no and they're paying a price for it." McAteer called TV watching a "passive activity" which does not encourage creative play. And that's about what we've got — "passive" young consumers, not thinkers.

Bishop High School Superintendent Don Taylor concurs. He holds TV responsible for "a considerable drop-off" in students' interest in the written word. "Kids are not as interested in writing. In looking over writing here at the high school," said Taylor, "written work is generally atrocious." The Bishop High School Board recently took at least one step toward improving the situation. They voted to require written work in all classes except physical education. Taylor also said that a major weak spot in the school is spelling... "That has been down in the last five years."

Or to paraphrase an old gag: "They can't spell iggerant and now they are one."

Part of the education problem involves competition with "other interests" and a vexing lack of encouragement at home for high level achievement at school. Taylor admits that for some students, perhaps a large number, drugs, alcohol, cars, jobs, and even sex far exceed any youthful desire to read Dickens, write essays, or explore the geometric mysteries of an equilateral triangle. Taylor said that there are a number of individual cases of teens on drugs or alcohol who have slipped down hill academically. And then there's the phenomenon of the automobile. Taylor

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AND TELEVISION VIEWING
ACCORDING TO SUBJECT MATTER AREA — GRADE 12



said that at 16, or earlier, teens want to buy a car, so they get a job to pay for it and keep it and they spend aimless hours "dragging main street." He called this a very widespread phenomenon which demands hours of time and energy leaving little for schoolwork. And as if drugs, alcohol, and cars weren't quite enough to divert teen interest, Taylor says "students are more sexually active." Alarming, there are more teen pregnancies and abortions. And the superintendent says that the teen view of morality "reflects on a whole lot of things...how they look at life."

So who needs school with all that? The kids shrug.

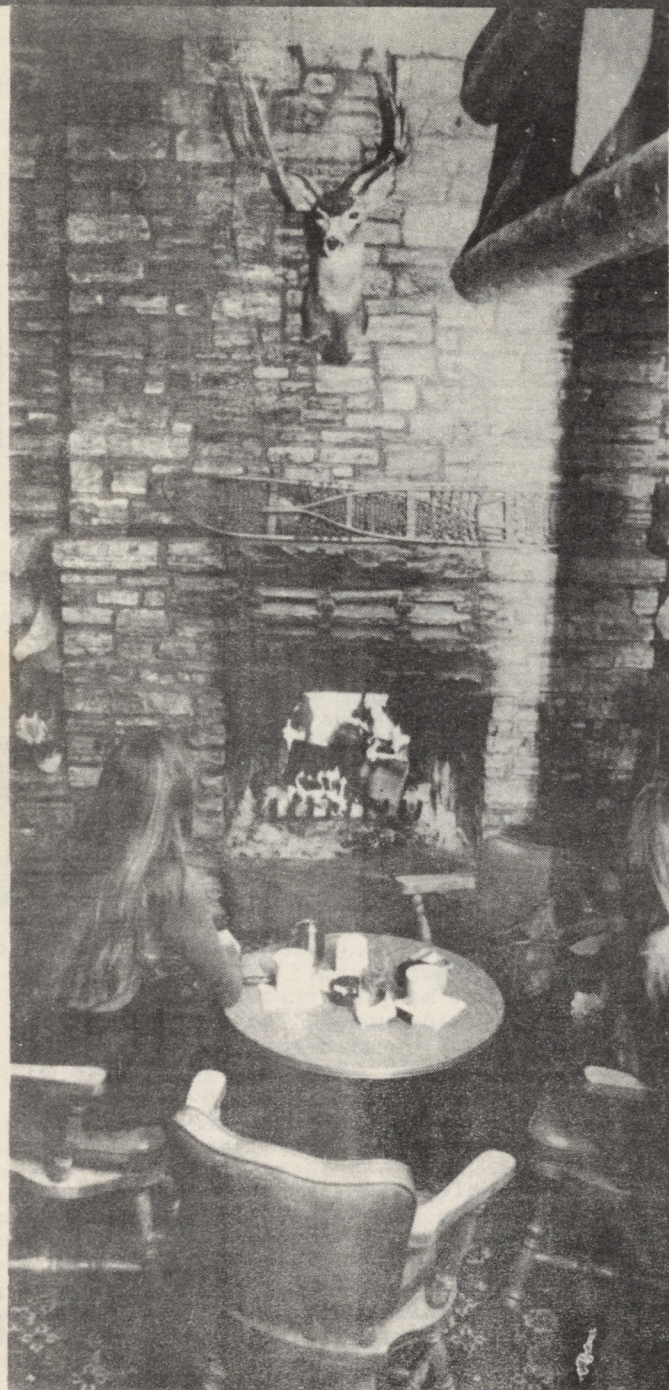
Taylor, with some justification, wanted to add that all the discussion about the negativities among students fails to give credit to those kids who in fact are "achieving." And according to Taylor, there are many of these. "There is a very positive element in school. There are a lot of kids who are capable, hard-working and want to be in school to learn." The problem lies in part in the fact that many parents — and students — are convinced that they are in this group. Not so.

Most school officials agree on the existence of a "positive element," and that more emphasis has been placed on the "non-achievers," or as we used to call them, "the dummies." Proof that the spirit of learning is yet alive materialized when Father Christopher Kelley offered to teach a beginning course in Classical Greek at Bishop Union High School. And, in fact, six students enrolled in the class and, happily, even a few adults may study Greek too. Now, if we could just find a Latin teacher somewhere. Is Latin a "dead" language? It lives and breathes through these very words, these *verities* if you will.

At Lone Pine schools, where drug and alcohol use among teens has been widely publicized, (see December *News-Letter*) Superintendent Dale Davidson acknowledges that there are in fact "achievement problems." He says drugs do take their toll on learning, but points out that Lone Pine schools are admitting there is a problem, which is now under study in workshops for parents and kids. Davidson says he's sure that the problems exist in other schools, whether they admit it or not. And, indeed they do exist, contrary to noisy denials.

Davidson stressed the importance of parents encouraging reading for their very young children. He too agrees that television and the elec-

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tronic age have detoured the young away from the written word.

Mammoth Vice-Principal McAteer was asked about drug and alcohol use. He said he sees "less use in Mammoth than in the cities." He did admit that "some students" do abuse drugs and alcohol. But he hastened to reiterate that "60% of the school students are in CIF athletics programs and don't have time for drugs." Whatever that proves. Other Mammoth school officials say the same thing. But opposing views are privately expressed. In fact, in efforts to find out about Mono schools...especially Mammoth...there were many who preferred to take the "Let's not rock the happy boat" posture. But more than one spokesman admitted privately that alcohol is a problem for many Mammoth teens. And that a chief hazard in Mammoth is the "tourist economy" which makes drugs and alcohol available, even acceptable. There are many teens who are left alone by parents in Mammoth; parents, in order to produce a higher level income, spend much time traveling, or involved in business affairs. These take little time to direct or discipline their self-indulgent progeny.

The most candid comments about Mono schools came from the top. The superintendent of Mono schools, Edward Inwood, said of drugs and alcohol: "I know it's going on, but I have received no referrals for discipline on such problems." Inwood said that regardless of specific scientific proof that drugs and alcohol interfere with thinking and learning, he said it's bound to interfere anyway. He pointed out that partying until midnight or later means that students are neither physically nor mentally fit to go to school the next day, not if they are to learn anything. Inwood said "as far as he knows" drug use is "limited."

In Inyo County, Superintendent of Schools Janet Watkins openly discussed her vexations. "We're not any different from the larger city schools. We have the same problems...just in smaller numbers." She sees drugs as a problem on the upswing, and possibly a malady come home to roost from the sixties' drug indulgences. Mrs. Watkins said that some kids now in school are the offspring of those who once had or still have, a drug habit. Although not totally conclusive, some tests have indicated serious brain cell and chromosome damage as the result of drug intake. Watkins thinks that some learning

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disabilities could be the result of parents who used drugs heavily before the birth of their children.

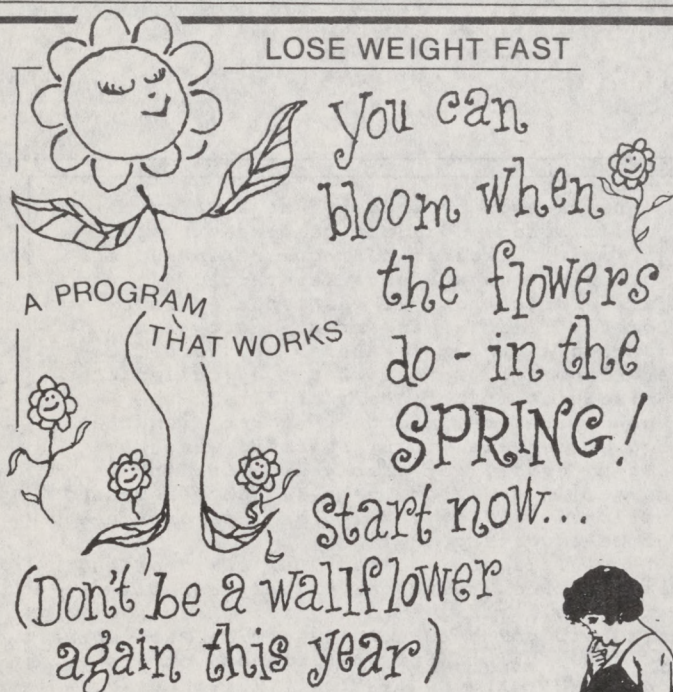
Maybe so. But it took more than LSD in the sixties and seventies to alter so dramatically the complexion of education even unto the eighties. Not one educator denied the theory that societal views of the past decade drastically shifted the overall direction of education. Superintendent Watkins said, "Schools are a reflection of society, but are not in the forefront." Caught in a reactionary position, educators find themselves trapped between the Scylla and Charybdis of societal pressure and parental whims. It's no easy task to please everyone and still get Johnny to learn anything...especially if you're not even allowed to spank him when he needs it. No matter that often he winds up in jail at 15.

Superintendent Inwood, clearly a thoughtful man on this curious evolutionary turn of education, said, "I see things are going back to the Three R's."

"It's a reaction to what occurred in the sixties. The pendulum is swinging. It's a continual process. I read an old publication which said, 'Don't let your child go to college because of the bad influences.' You would think that refers to the sixties and seventies - a time of protests and riots - but it was the late nineteenth century. As soon as we have the Three R's again, people will want something else."

Inwood thinks that schools *should* change with societal changes, as a kind of cultural mirror. But he said the schools usually remain a few years behind in their reactions. The Superintendent talked more about what has occurred in the past decade or two: He pointed to "a permissive society" and the "do your own thing" attitude. He said that in the classroom this doesn't work

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well. "We have emphasized the individual and when you carry out 'guaranteed rights' of the children, you have gun-shy teachers, over-sensitive attorneys."

And Dummies..Although he did not say that in those terms.

Inwood did say, however, that the majority of kids are learning "something." But he too sees the barriers of television, parental attitudes, and emphasis on the theory of "bringing the bottom-line students up to the middle." (And the top-line students down to the middle?)

The Superintendent said, "If kids are reading books, they are excited about mental images. But watching TV causes them to lose the skill of imagination. They become lazy since it is easier to have TV entertain them."

Inwood said that parents can have "a big effect" on the future learning of their children. He said if kids see their parents reading and enjoying books and magazines, they will turn to those same sources.

But there's more to literature than sports pages.

And does Inwood think children should have a choice in school about what they learn? "No," he says emphatically. "Up to certain ages, learning subjects should be mandated. After that, they should be encouraged to learn how to make choices and decisions."

Inwood admits that test scores and achievement have dropped. He sees part of the responsi-

The parents of students at a Chicago public school couldn't be more unhappy. At Irvin C. Mollison School recently, the mother of two students was carted off to jail. In the news it was reported that Dorothy Tillman was arrested after she organized a group of parents who turned up at school to protest what they called the "miseducation" of their children.

And, in fact, the test scores from that school revealed that, starting with the second grade, for each year a student remained in Mollison, he fell farther behind national reading levels, an apparent case of de-educating.

Mrs. Tillman, who says her children had earlier been tested as "highly intelligent," and considerably advanced for their age prior to going to school, decided she wanted some action. But when she and others showed up at school, Mrs. Tillman was arrested for trespassing. Not surprisingly, the embarrassed school officials were unresponsive.

Many believe that therein lies the primary problem which must be resolved before anything else can change. School officials must be willing to act.

bility resting with the types of kids who remain in school longer now than they did in the fifties and sixties. Even the problem kids, serious off-

enders, are not expelled or discouraged from continuing on. He said that the top achievers in school are not so high as they used to be.... "Fifty-one percent don't get additional help. The idea is to bring the bottom up to the middle instead of the middle up to the top."

Or - a kind of striving toward mediocrity. Here, amazingly, in the wealthiest nation in the world, education is widely available, but excellence, discipline, incisive and decisive thinking, communication, and ultimately leadership, have been abandoned for quantity education. To Americans more is better, quality be damned. But how better is it when the intelligent students, those who want to learn and who are capable, are not encouraged and elevated. And what chance does anyone have when Mom and Dad display priorities such as *Laverne and Shirley*, football, fast-moving cars, oodles of possessions, strive for fun and pleasure, and by all means don't let anybody boss you around...?

ANOTHER PERSPECTIVE ON SCHOOL PROBLEMS: the school boards themselves. To what extent do board members exercise control of school curricula and the philosophies of education? News sources within the schools say the boards have an underlying, but "significant" impact. They influence learning policies "one way or the other." More often than not, board members choose to swing with the status quo rather than provoke the possible wrath of parents who may live as close as next door.

Board members in Inyo and Mono have grown uncomfortably aware of declining achievement and of waning standards of excellence. Compounding the problem in more than one school, teaching staff and board experience "communication problems" or simple disagreements about what should or should not occur in the schools.

One teacher said privately that board members have sometimes demonstrated a lack of trust in teachers, and an unwillingness to work with them on significant school problems. The Bishop High School Board has responded at least to a few of the more pressing problems. That board implemented a policy stating that students must perform "written work" in every class except physical education. And, at last report, the BHHS board had begun to consider "a basic change" in English requirements...with a possible return to "basic English" class requirements as a priority in student curricula.

But then the position of school board members often becomes at best a thankless job. Often times vacancies are filled only with difficulty.

When society, schools, parents expect very little in terms of excellence that is what they will get. Proof that children, very young children, can read and even enjoy Shakespeare, Chaucer, Dickens, and Plato exists in at least one small private school in the U.S.

A spirited teacher in Chicago decided she had had it with public schools...started her own private school in the South Side. Ghetto children who had been failing or doing poorly have now mastered the classics and basic mathematics. For up to eight hours a day, this teacher teaches straight material...reading, writing, and math. Amazed parents now say their children are "excited about learning" and even ask for reading material at home. And, oh yes, this particular pioneer demands a certain discipline: It's called politeness and quiet obedience, respect for others' rights. Sound rough? The victims of this tyrannical set-up couldn't be happier.

Another teacher anonymously complained that ~ board members sometimes consider teachers "second rate citizens" unworthy of much pay, or any real voice in school policy.

And there are the teachers...do they themselves receive a proper and sufficient education? Some older teachers feel that those educated in the recent past did not get the same broad range of preparation as teachers educated many years ago. In support of that view, recent national news coverage indicates a "serious problem" in the teachers' own abilities to read, write and perform mathematics: they were schooled in the "new wave" of education with emphasis not on basic skills but the concept of un-structured teaching procedure.

A question that school boards, officials, teachers, and parents must consider: What is the end purpose of "education"? Presumably, to prepare youths for living well and responsibly, and working productively and creatively, to equip them with fundamental skills of communication, writing and speaking...and to train them for dealing with basic, if not sophisticated, mathematics. Underlying it all, as many now believe, schools should convey also a firm sense of ethics to the young, so they can use any knowledge gained toward honest dealings in the society at large.

Somewhere along the line...the job of "educating" has failed, at least in part. The school boards and teachers can perpetuate the trend or make efforts to face the truth.

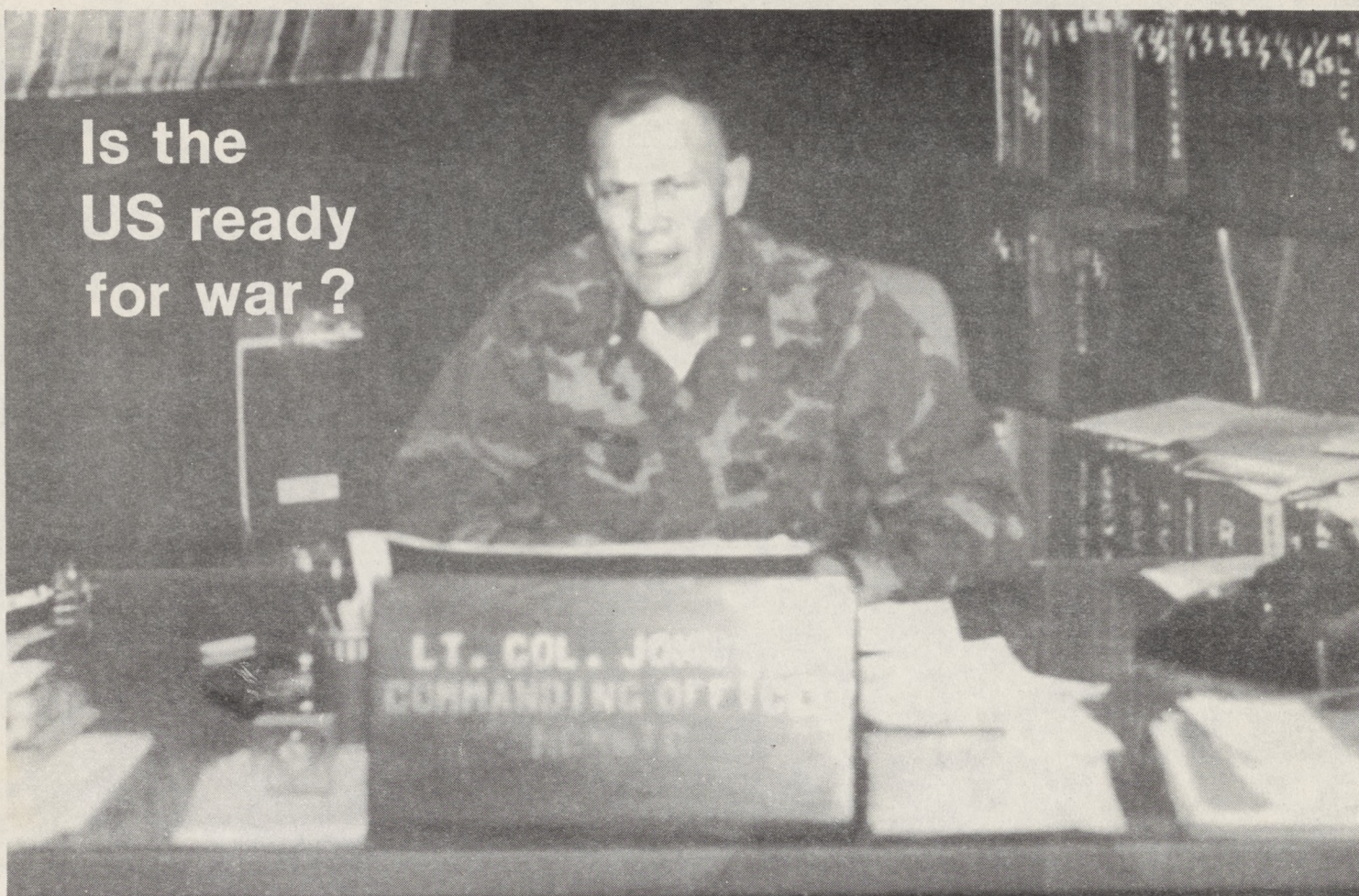


'HANGING OUT'

Cars and bikes are necessary part of Bishop's street-corner youth scene.

Photo: Marilyn Fisher

Is the
US ready
for war?



Mono's concerned Marine

"Among other evils which being unarmed brings you, it causes you to be despised." - Machiavelli, The Prince

Boastfully confident, prideful of her inner storehouse of noble ideas, naively certain of her ability to "negotiate" any national issue, the American Ship of State has sailed serenely for years, sure of herself in the troubled waters of world politics. Too late perhaps her officers (busy with the worldly concerns of making money and enjoying themselves in the game of politics) realize the vessel is after all sailing in enemy waters - without guns and without sufficient crew.

But so it has always been throughout the country's history - always unprepared until finally the enemy has fired a first salvo. We always won eventually, but that was a better day of honorable war and after all our shorelines were protected by two broad oceans. It was not then absolutely necessary that the nation be "prepared." There was always time to gear up for battle in a last-minute rush. But now, war is different, and vic-

tory in conflict may be won or lost in days, even hours.

We're not ready for that.

Up in Mono County at the Marine base a worried colonel walks in the winter bleakness of Pickel Meadows. He counts his manpower, counts his vehicles and very little of the reality he finds there adds up to what "preparedness" is on paper. And what he finds tallies not at all with the reassurances issued from time to time by the military optimists who write press releases.

Lt. Col. John Guy, a 27-year career Marine, says in effect that the country is in trouble, that the various armed services are virtually broke thanks to a decade of military spending cutbacks and consequent cutbacks in military training and personnel. Col. Guy, along with others in the Marine (and Army and Navy) officer corps, cannot train

fighters without equipment.

His claim is simple and it is obvious: If there is no money for ammunition and gasoline, men in training cannot learn how to shoot and how to drive what equipment they have. He says virtually all armed forces lack sufficient ammunition to fire enough live rounds (*real* bullets, *real* missiles) to make them proficient with the real thing - *real* war. "You can play with little toys," says Col. Guy, "but more and consistent handling of actual weapons makes for real ability."

Have the American people and the American congress, tired of war, decided finally in the past decade that the country no longer needs its military? Has an entire nation made its own farewell to arms?

Not entirely; the hawks (no longer a dirty name) are still among us, but what are their priorities? They seem now to have turned their economic plow-

shares into very grandiose swords indeed: On the drawing board they have an awesome and complicated MX missile plan. Meanwhile, they've apparently forgotten about the boys in Barracks B who have no bullets.

As for the MX missile defense, Col. Guy agrees that it's a "great thing," but he's more concerned with "right now." Asked if, in the case of a national emergency, there would be problems in mobilizing, the colonel says he thinks "responsiveness is good," then he adds: "But how do you get there if there are no ships and planes?" Back to the money problem.

Another concern: The men in the military have fewer tools to work with - this at the same time that there are also fewer men. Colonel Guy's solution to the latter problem is also a sim-

*"In peace, as a wise man,
he should make suitable
preparation for war."*

- Horace, Odes

ple one and it is shared by many: "Return to the draft and mandatory service of some type. "Conscientious objectors can do something too," he says.

How about women in the service? "Women are fine in the service," said Guy, "but not on

the front line. Women can handle supplies, driving and other duties in rear areas. But you can't expect a woman to handle a fifty-pound pack plus another fifty pounds in equipment. A

*"And raw in fields the
rude militia swarms,
Mouths without hands;
maintained at vast expense,
In peace a charge, in
war a weak defense."*

- John Dryden

woman's place is not in a fox-hole."

Clearly, the Mono Marine boss holds few concerns about being outspoken. What, then, does he think about his new commander-in-chief? Will Reagan's conservative bent mean more military bucks? Guy answered: "There are just rumors now. Nothing is firm about how Reagan will handle military spending. But I think he might support a stronger military establishment with more money and people."

But even if pay is increased, Col. Guy still foresees probable problems with the nation's current policy of all-volunteer personnel. "We need universal military training. Look at the rest of the world. That's what they're doing. We're supposed

to be a world power, a world policeman. But if we continue as we are, we could drop back to fifth power."

And, in matters of "power," how do we stack up with the obvious "second greatest" (or, frighteningly, "first greatest"), the Soviet Union?

"We surpass them," says Guy flatly. "It's because of our technology. But they have more. The Soviet Union knows what it's doing; they want global domination. And it would be nice if the US would counter the Soviets."

Have the American people retreated into another one of the shy periods of isolationism? The colonel thinks so. "The American people go to work, come home, and watch 'Little House on the Prairie.'" He says that with a certain weary resignation. And,

*"To be prepared for war is
one of the most effectual
means of preserving peace."*

- George Washington

indeed, the Evening News with all its alarms of foreign war rumblings, provides something that many people simply prefer not to think about; to many viewers the very real problems of the world are little more than an irrita-

Continued page 26

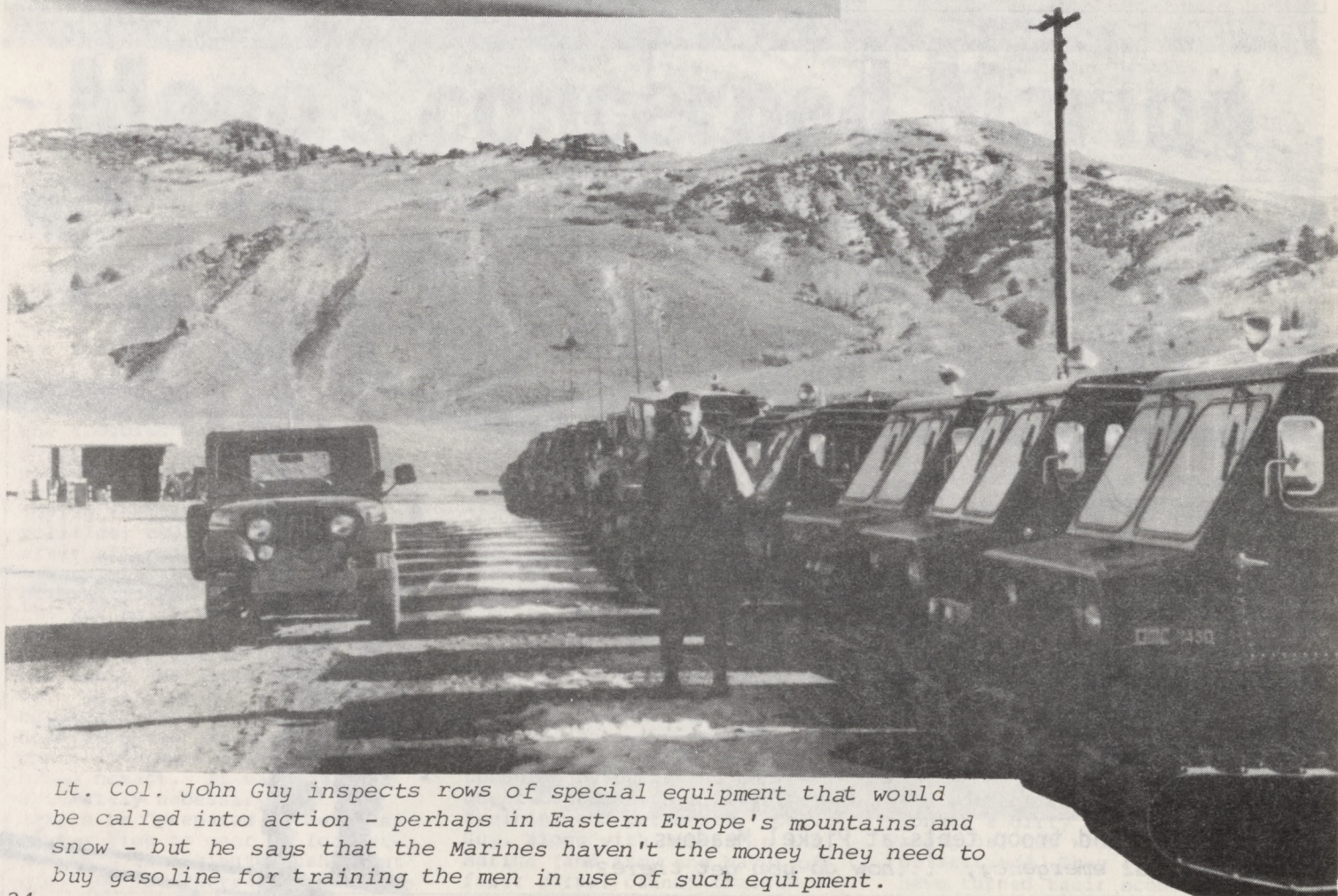


Lt. Col. Guy and troop tents at Pickel Meadows
In a national emergency, "...how do you get there?"



Marine ski troops train at Mono County's Marine Mountain Warfare Training Center. The Mono Marines are volunteer members of a highly specialized corps, but while the national military establishment makes awesome and grandiose plans for an MX missile system, such troops as these are often short of the ammunition and equipment they need for adequate preparation for a national emergency.

MONO MARINES



Lt. Col. John Guy inspects rows of special equipment that would be called into action - perhaps in Eastern Europe's mountains and snow - but he says that the Marines haven't the money they need to buy gasoline for training the men in use of such equipment.

GREEN BERETS



STRIKE FORCE



In a swirl of tumbleweed and dust a strike force of Green Beret helicopters "attack" in a training exercise at Bishop. Such elite units look good, but training costs money and neglect of the armed services' real needs is causing increasing alarm among many who feel that the US may not be ready for a national emergency.

At Bishop Airport, a group of Green Berets puts on an impressive display of military expertise. But many US military units that might suddenly be called to battle are short of basic equipment.

Continued next page

tion. They'd rather find their solutions to complex problems through the simplistic and childish issues of Rams football or Dodger baseball.

(Or worse: Several months ago a survey showed without possible margin for polling error that Americans were more concerned and curious to know who shot the "Dallas" show's J.R. Ewing than they were in who might win the November election.)

What is the "overall picture" of American military pre-

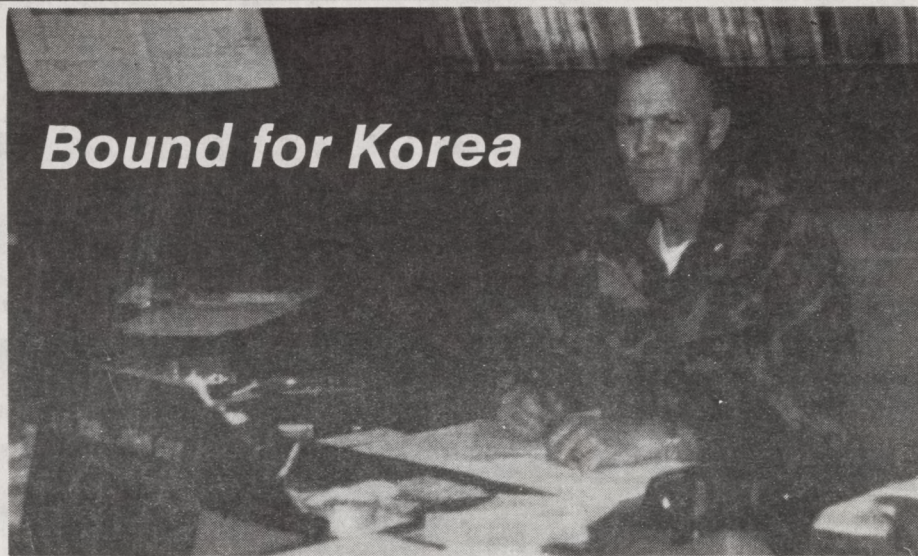
paredness? In the colonel's view, which he concedes is largely limited to a view from Pickel Meadows: "It is in fair shape, but needs additional money and additional guidance."

This 47-year-old Marine intends to offer his own brand of guidance; as might be obvious in light of his outspokenness (Marine colonels sometimes get into trouble for being far less candid than was the colonel in this interview) on military-political affairs.

No matter, in coming weeks Guy will go to Korea as a training advisor to the Korean Marines. He said he asked for the assignment because it is a "real world situation. No one knows when a conflict will occur."

And that seems to be the problem, one that won't go away by wishful thinking: no one really seems to know...and in case it happens, the country - like the colonel - should be ready.

No arm-chair officer, Lt. Col. Guy has requested, and has been granted, a transfer to a command in Korea where South Korean and American troops hold the restive North Korean communist forces in check. Guy calls the Korean standoff "a real world situation" where "no one knows when a conflict will occur." Guy is to be replaced by Lt. Col. Bill Osgood from the Marine base at El Toro.



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SHUMWAY ON DEFENSE:

"SPEND MORE, BUT WASTE LESS"

Mono County's Congressman Norman Shumway adds his support to increased defense spending. Shumway said he recently discussed the defense spending plan with other Washington officials. He said that defense spending, under Reagan's plan, will amount to 24% of the present national budget, and that by 1984 defense will consume 32% of the budget.

Shumway defended this plan against criticism that claims poor people will be punished. He said that such programs as retirement, social security, veterans benefits, and Medicare will amount to 37% of the present budget under Reagan's plan, and 41% by 1984.

The Congressman said he generally supports Reagan's idea. "America was lagging in military capability and the ability to defend itself. I am concerned about the state of our national preparedness."

He did say that some areas

of defense spending are wasteful and that "careful attention" should be paid to all spending. "I don't advocate going to war," he said, "but we need to beef up our ability."

Shumway said he is aware of a "tremendous lack of morale among our troops." He said that the strategic petroleum reserve is not what it should be...and that means gasoline to fuel military equipment. He said that in order to maintain peaceful co-existence with the Soviet Union "we need to match them in military might."

Shumway mentioned that the U.S. Navy in no way can stand up to the Soviets on the seas.

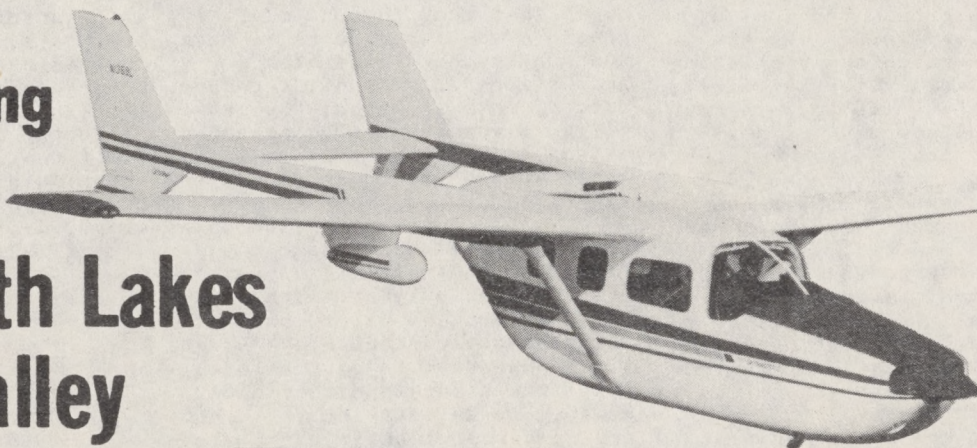
The congressman says he is satisfied with Reagan having the concern for military preparedness and believes that he will apply money to the needed areas.



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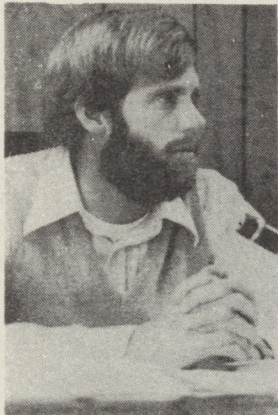
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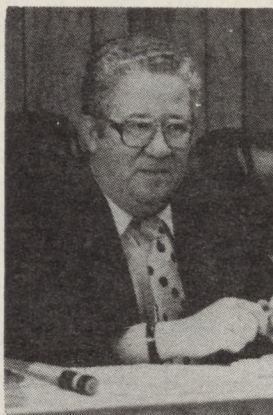
Water Commission:



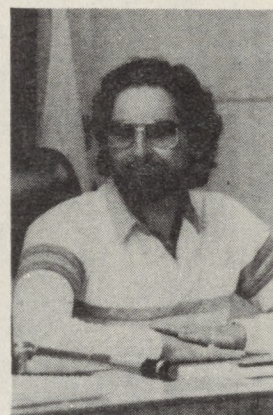
Paul Lamos



Cindy O'Connor



Frank Fowles



Harry Holgate



the controversy begins

DWP has passed along Inyo's separate and higher property tax to local ranchers and the angered cattlemen want the county to back down. Meanwhile, rancher-commissioner Jack Tatum has resigned due to "conflict of interest."

"Divide and conquer...that's what DWP is trying to do!," said the new water director.

"Nay," replied Inyo's defensive cattlemen. Last month they and a handful of others preferred to do business-as-usual safely beside still and uncontroversial waters.

Thus, in the midst of stormy conflict engendered by DWP--Inyo's painfully mature-scent board of water commissioners and its director came into living existence. Born out of last November's election, an election in which an astonishing 75% of the Inyo voters gleefully rushed to the polls to bring DWP to heel, the board rides now on a firm political base. But there are those who even now would chip away at the base and have the county government knuckle under to DWP. The special interest groups, mostly business people and cattlemen, march only fearfully, if at all, into battle against the department; they are concerned over what they strongly feel will be a fight costly only to themselves.

As the new month began it had become preeminently clear to practically everyone that the DWP bosses had once again managed to get to these more conservative elements who now find themselves ever more vulnerable to DWP lease and rent increases. (Months ago, demonstrating once again a not unusual lack of foresight, the supervisors yawned and waffled

through a meeting in which rent control ordinances might then have been passed as an offset to DWP's predictable lease profiteering.)

It was also becoming clear to most officials--and was so stated in strong terms by at least one of them--that DWP was indeed "dividing" if not precisely "conquering." In past times DWP has attempted, sometimes with disconcerting success, to manipulate the special interests in hopes that they in turn might pressure the supervisors to back down on any hard-line stance against the department. And sure enough, late in March, the cattlemen's representatives stomped up the courthouse steps to lay their woes on the board of supervisors.

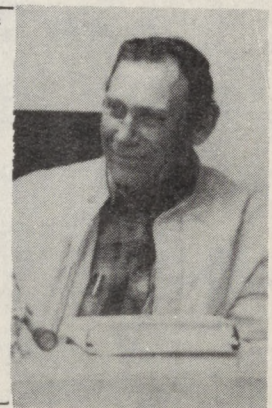
To the supervisors, and to anyone else, it has become confirmed truth that cattle producers are fawningly dependent upon DWP for land and water. But it was also obvious that Inyo's cattlemen nowadays enjoy far less political clout than they once wielded so devastatingly against anyone opposing their views. Late last year it was learned from an economic survey that cattle production amounts to a bare 3% of the county economy (8% in Mono.) And it had also become apparent that in terms of voting numbers the cattle raisers, their employees and friends, probably constitute fewer than 500 votes in the entire county. With a clear-cut

75% of the November electorate screaming for DWP's scalp, the supervisors and the water commissioners now plainly had their work cut out, DWP's inflated cattle lease charges notwithstanding.

So, as the new board came into being, and as it made its first few hesitant steps toward much-demanded action, the stage had been set for a monotonously likely script. Although from time to time the story-line took a few unforeseen and even dramatic twists, it unfolded pretty much as expected after the November opening:

The voters had then made perfectly clear that they demand stiff controls on DWP's groundwater pumping. And meanwhile the county supervisors, faced with a woeful decline in tax revenues, wanted DWP to start carrying a

Rancher-
Commissioner
Jack Tatum
*Conflict of
interest*



Photos: John Heston

fair share of the county's tax burden. To meet the voters' demands the water commission was formed. And to boost revenues the supervisors laid an additional tax on DWP. The supervisors assured everyone that it is a standard, everyday kind of tax, mind you, not a "special tax" as claimed by DWP. But the ongoing, petulant kvetch from DWP, and its punitive passing-on of the increased tax to the cattlemen's leases and to a few business houses, brought the cowboys to the courthouse to petition for redress. It was clear what they wanted: Lay off DWP so it won't cost us. In their request lurked a kind of peace-at-any-price surrender that totally ignores the plainly expressed wishes of those concerned with the valley's ecology and those homeowners burdened not only with the bulk of the tax load but also lately hit by

a whopping metered water increase of 20%.

As the water commissioners and the supervisors gamely tried to wade through the February-March political swamp, the new commission and its serenely confident and independent director were learning a lot about keeping practically no one happy. They were, after all, playing a new kind of legal game that had few if any precedent rules of law or procedure.

The ecologists, along with the angry metered homeowners--the chronic DWP-haters--were meanwhile screaming for instant board action against DWP. Their demands were not always without reason: Late last year it had been learned that each day of groundwater pumping (which now has taken the water table down to perilously dangerous and irreplaceable lows) was quite literally killing an

otherwise verdant valley, even the trees and shrubs on private properties. The county officials themselves, torn between the go-easy-on-'ems and the hit-'em-harders then went to work but seemed sometimes to pull in opposite directions. The resultant courthouse chaos left Inyo government frantically searching for a clear-cut policy, one they hoped would be fair to all concerned. Now, they'll try again to "negotiate" with DWP, no matter that a half-century of negotiations have invariably proven to be a costly waste of time. In the popularly understood use of the word, DWP does not "negotiate."

At the same time, from the new water director, there was at least the first beginnings of "action" of the kind the homeowners and the concerned citizens wanted...

...Jogging to a first strike on DWP

It was a good day for jogging, so the story goes, and a young woman was getting her miles in Bishop's Dixon Lane area. Beneath her running feet lay turf considered part of the "Bishop Cone," a water basin from which the Department of Water and Power has long been taking water illegally. The jogger, an acquaintance of Water Director Mark Silversher, saw a drilling rig in operation. Was it "legal"? She thought not, and notified Silversher who went immediately into action. County Ordinance #309 requires that anyone "drilling, modifying or destroying a well" in Inyo County must first obtain a permit from the county health department.

And did the DWP hold a permit for the rig south of Dixon Lane? Contacted at the health department, an employee, Marty Goodman, checked the record. Finding no permit application, and now backed by Silversher and the water commission, he forthwith went to the offending work-site and "red-tagged" it, effectively closing down the site. From DWP came an angry reaction--and from some DWP employees who might be faced with going to jail for illegal drilling, there was a fearful one.

DWP closed down the rig, but then, petulantly it seems, its officials remarked that the closure might "sour" the "good working relationship" between Inyo and DWP. Silversher and other county officials were unimpressed.

In Silversher, the DWP may discover an impulsive, though effective, adversary. He is not a man slow to anger, nor is he above abruptly hanging up the telephone on callers who waste his time or ask what, to him, are too many questions. He works, seemingly on his own, in an independent fashion that already has riled more than a few officials and citizens. His independence was early demonstrated when he pointed out to the supervisors who hired him that he had little taste for becoming the county's "permanent" water director. He told the supervisors to hire him on an independent contractor basis, then, when asked how long the contract would last, he glibly replied that he'd have to wait and see, implying that when things settled down to routine he might lose interest...

And how "independent" can the staid conservatives of the Inyo board allow their water director to be? If qualifications and background

Continued next page

Inyo's
Water
Director
Silversher
Independent
lawyer-
engineer
cracks down
on DWP
wells



Photo: Marilyn Fisher

Water continued

have anything to do with it, Silversher holds the credentials that may in fact let him write his own ticket: He is 34, graduated first in his class in engineering at UCLA, then later graduated in the top third of his class from UCLA law school. In the years since graduation he managed to stack up an impressive work record in a very short time as lawyer, engineer, teacher in physics, chemistry, higher mathematics and engineering, among others. As for his "exposure" to engineering, his work record indicates experience in engineering geology, economics, systems analysis, computer programming and higher applied mathematics.

The question now, in a county that often holds such qualifications not in awe but in suspicion: Can he talk the local political language of the government he must deal with? Possibly so: Silversher has mastered Spanish, German and basic French.

Was there more to be known about the water commission's apparent genius-in-residence?

Silversher's approach to gathering water data is not without a certain ingenious

aggressiveness--more evidence of his independence of action.

In a typical DWP public relations ploy--the well-used "tour" technique--DWP officials recently offered to take Silversher, and a handful of consultants, on a tour of the valley's waterlands. During the course of the tour, DWP's Duane Buckholz showed brief glimpses of rarely-seen DWP maps of pump locations, etc. Silversher took out a miniature "spy" camera and frankly began snapping pictures of the maps. Buckholz, showing some concern, asked what Silversher was doing. Silversher replied nonchalantly; he was just taking some pictures. He got an entire roll of film.

In regard to his dealings with other county officials, there were rumblings about a growing number of incidents in which Silversher may have stood at odds with his bosses and colleagues who had become wary of his (to them) very independent action. About the rumors, *News-Letter* reporter Marilyn Fisher managed a brief interview with Silversher:

Was there a communications breakdown, he was asked.

"I do want to co-operate. I don't want to hide anything but everything I say will be leading up to litigation and

that gets sticky," he said. "Basically, I haven't talked to anybody but the supervisors and the water commission when it's met. I feel the need to make some decisions and get the job done. If people really want that they should let me get the job done. It's like you trying to write a novel and at the same time having to go out and explain to everyone what you're writing." But in fact, Silversher is no novelist and, like it or not, many elements of the public were wanting step-by-step reports. After all, the their underground water table was quickly going down the aqueduct.

But, independent in his views, Silversher said, "This infighting or what people perceive to be infighting is just destructive to the county."

Probably so.

But why no interim pumping controls yet? "I encourage anyone who can do it faster to come in and do it. Anyone who thought it could be done in a matter of weeks was sadly mistaken. People have to decide if they want a PR man who's going to attend meetings and talk to the press and get a lot of glory, or if they want someone who is going to get the job done. I can't do both.

"I don't want interim controls that are indefensible in a court of law. They have to be biologically, hydrologically and environmentally sound." He called the current proposals for interim controls "blanket controls that don't address what happens to a well or a spring or a ranch. A defensible plan will address these things and focus on areas we want to protect.

"We need to look at this in more detail than has been done up to this point. If we go to court and lose in the first round, this will be a poor county with no control over its situation. I don't want to be responsible for that." And, indeed, Silversher carries a heavy load of responsibility.

Meanwhile, schisms abound: the ranchers who are outraged by lease-price increases from DWP, for instance. The Department claims that the county's "separate and higher" tax rate made them raise the lease charges. Businessmen, too, experienced similar rent hikes, and DWP wanted, as usual, to blame "the county."

"Nonsense," said the C.A. County Administrator John K. Smith put it into perspective for any who wanted to hear. Smith told a crowd of riled up

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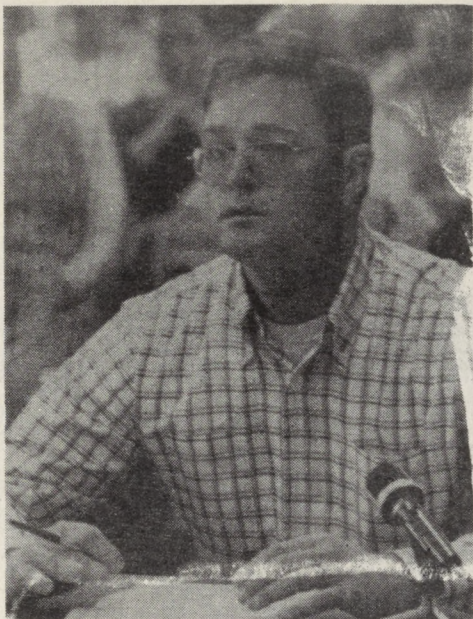


Photo: Marilyn Fisher

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ranchers that the county is not the enemy, and that DWP plainly is.

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"In the Fall, sometime ago, my legs began to hurt. I went to an orthopedic doctor in Upland, California, and he said my back needed to be operated on, but that I would never work again. I didn't work for five months because my legs hurt so bad. In fact, I was about to get a medical and retire. Then I started taking adjustments from Dr. Jarvie. In five months I was back on my feet and I feel better than I have in the past four years."

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KESSLER
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KNYO 600 AM
Inyo County

SEE A
GOOD MOVIE...

SCREEN #1:

PG Friday-Thursday, April 3-9
"The Incredible Shrinking Woman",
and "The Nude Bomb"

PG Friday-Thursday, April 10-16
"The Competition" and
"Old Boyfriend"

R Friday-Thursday, April 17-23
"Stir Crazy" and "When You
Comin' Back, Red Ryder?"

R Friday-Thursday, April 24-30
"The Final Conflict" and
a second feature

SCREEN #2

R Friday-Tuesday, April 3-7
"Fun House" and "The Island"

PG Wednesday-Saturday, April 8-11
"Inside Moves" and "Little Miss
Marker"

Sunday-Tuesday, April 12-14
Foreign Film Showings of
"The Tin Drum" and "Nosferatu"

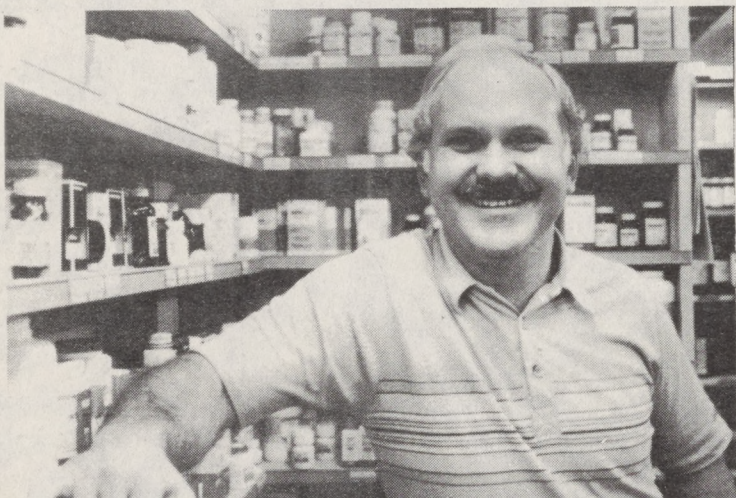
PG Wednesday-Thursday, April 15-23
"Nine to Five" and second feature

PG Friday-Thursday, April 24-30
"Tribute" and second feature

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New York, February 18-- Nearly 3,700 cable subscribers in Bishop will see a free sample of movies, sports and specials when Bishop Cable TV, Ltd. begins an eight day free preview of Home Box Office, the nation's leading pay cable service. The preview can be seen on cable channel 3.

Beginning March 20th cable viewers can see original theatrical versions of such movies as the big box office hit "Apocalypse Now" with Marlon Brando and Martin Sheen, "Mary Poppins" with Julie Andrews and Dick Van Dyke, "Superman The Movie" with Christopher Reeve, "Saturn 3" with Kirk Douglas and Farrah Fawcett and many others.

Also scheduled during the free sample will be entertainment specials from HBO, the largest producer in pay TV. Viewers can see "Vanities," HBO's first theatrical presentation with Annette O'Toole, Meredith Baxter-Birney and Shelley Hack and "Country Music: A Family Affair" a country music spectacular.

In sports during the preview, HBO will present "HBO Sports Magazine", an in-depth program featuring today's sports with hosts Barry Tompkins and Larry Merchant.

"There are never any commercial interruptions on Home Box Office," explained system manager Mike Martell, "because HBO is a subscriber-supported service." The programs run the gamut from adult-oriented programming like "Thirst" a vampire thriller with David Hemmings to family fare like "Animalympics," an animated comedy using the voices of Gilda Radner and Billy Crystal.

"HBO is distributed nationally via the latest domestic communications satellite, RCA's SATCOM I, from HBO's studio in New York," said Martell. "Our earth receive dish picks up the high quality signal from 22,300 miles out in space and feeds it to our cable system."

Viewers who subscribe to HBO will pay a monthly fee of \$14.95 in addition to the regular cost of cable. For a limited time installation will be \$10, half the regular price.

Programs on HBO's upcoming schedule will include "Dressed to Kill" with Angie Dickinson and Michael Caine, "The Fog" with Hal Holbrook, "Magnum Force" with Clint Eastwood and many others.

Future specials on HBO will include "Melissa Manchester in Concert," a dazzling performance by one of the most versatile of today's singers.

"We hope that our cable subscribers will enjoy this new addition to our service," said Martell. "HBO is a real entertainment alternative."

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<i>The Black Stallion</i>	<i>World Heavyweight Boxing</i>
<i>Mac Davis in Concert</i>	<i>Heaven Can Wait</i>
<i>Escape from Alcatraz</i>	<i>Raise the Titanic</i>

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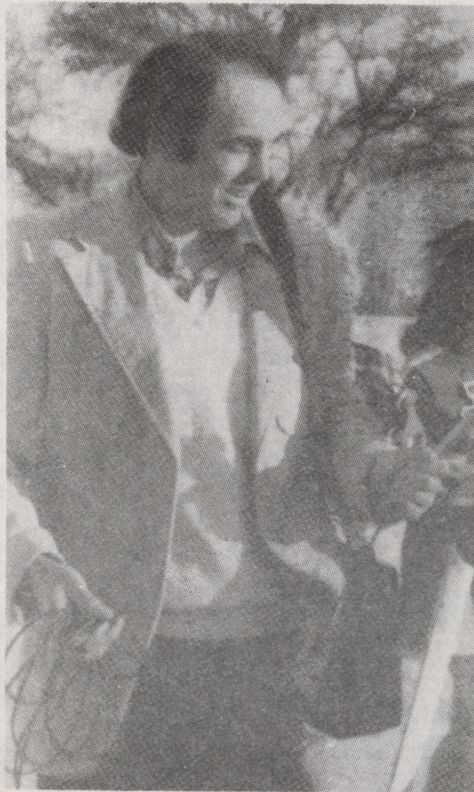
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News media Continued

have plainly succeeded--and in recent months they have worked toward a county-wide "local and



KNYO's Lloyd Higuera

Succeeding in the home town

area" news audience closely rivalling in size that of top-rated KIOQ.

And up in Mammoth Lakes appeared another competitor to further challenge Chalfant's Todd Watkins' long-held dominance of the news. Jay and Carol Cole started their brash new weekly newspaper, the *Lakes District Review*. By 1980, Cole could claim

without too much contradiction that the *Review* had passed Watkins' *Mono Herald* in circulation. So spectacular had been Cole's growth that he was planning, late in 1980, to establish yet another weekly or bi-weekly, right on Watkins' home turf--Bishop. In that enterprise Cole talked seriously with Bob Wellman, who by then had been fired from KIOQ. But the Cole-Wellman negotiations fell through with Wellman insisting on a "daily newspaper," a project he still hopes to accomplish with Sandy Harrison and a former Chalfant reporter-photographer, Joshua Crabtree.

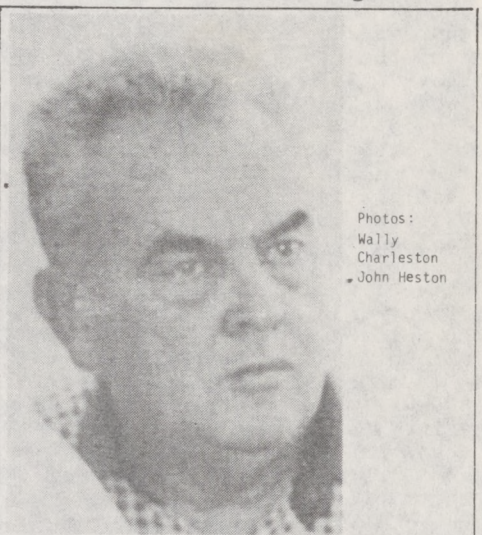
Crabtree is another young firebrand, a journalistic purist.

In a huff, Crabtree, 27, walked out on Chalfant late in 1980. He claimed the local paper refused to print stories he thought important to the public interest. Last month, he told *News-Letter* that he "doesn't want to be vindictive, but I felt I was in a stranglehold, creatively. A number of stories that deserved to get printed were pulled (out) by the publisher. I left because things had reached a point where, regardless of whose fault it was, the publisher and I couldn't work together for the good of the paper. I felt the best thing to do was to leave." Meantime, another Chalfant reporter sympathetic to Crabtree, Marilyn Fisher, was quietly simmering and making her own plans.

In the few months since his departure, Crabtree has managed to form his own free-lance publications and consulting office--Multi-Media Services. Aside from selling his skills to various media buyers, Crabtree has shown himself to be a creative influence in planning

Wellman's proposed newspaper, and also in the planning of yet another proposed publication, *Sierra Life Magazine*. (That proposed magazine is the brainchild of a former Bishop Chamber of Commerce employee, Sandy DeKorne. It will not necessarily be a "hard news" publication.)

As the public's thirst for "real news" increased, and as the Bishop area grew in what then appeared to be an expanding econ-



Photos:
Wally
Charleston
John Heston

Chalfant's Todd Watkins

Sale complete,-- more or less

omy, there arose a renewed interest in the Chalfant papers. For years, the idea of selling the Chalfant organization was argued and discussed; more than once negotiations had gotten underway with this or that potential buyer. Finally, as 1980 drew to a close, one of the deals was completed--more or less. The actual transfer of publishing plant and editorial policy has yet to occur as the



Lakes District Review's Jay and Carol Cole - brash new weekly on Todd's turf?



Chalfant's Ron Funk covers a fire at Bishop

Assurances of vastly improved newspapers for Inyo-Mono

potential new owners (represented by on-site Publisher Ron Funk) work out tax-saving measures in the sale. Meanwhile, Funk has named a former Montana publisher, Steve Boster, as the paper's general manager. But to what extent Boster actually manages is a matter of both internal and outside conjecture, since Todd Watkins is still very much around. Many of his present and former employees question whether he is, even now, likely to surrender much of his long-entrenched control over anything and everything from paper clips to editorials.

Funk, meanwhile, remains on the scene, in the office and--surprisingly-- outside the office personally covering news stories. He assures all who ask that the Chalfant papers will be vastly "improved," once the new owners take command.

Over at KIOQ, meanwhile, the news broadcasts were taking on a new and sharper direction--but, as a few listeners complained, at the cost of some loss of substance. Prior to the arrival of KIOQ's new news director, Randy Kerdoon, the news had fallen unhappily into hard times--with youthful rock-music-oriented disc jockeys attempting with shattering effect to take over what had previously been the two counties' top-rated news broadcast. After Wellman was fired, there had followed the sudden, angry resignation of Sandy Harrison, a Wellman loyalist.

The result demonstrated that disc jockeys could not read news

and gave rise to some questions about whether they can read at all.

Although the Kessler news was then still faithfully broadcast, Kerdoon found himself in a new area, with few news contacts and many responsibilities, and faced with rebuilding a credible and creditable newscast. Kerdoon, a 25-year-old southlander, previously worked at a station in Paso Robles. Once here, he showed

a talent for newsgathering and for adding a kind of TV zing to Bishop radio. No doubt he has about the best vocal delivery in the valley. He also has a penchant for expanding the "local" news into long minutes of state and national news reporting. That latter inclination was less than warmly received, and it gained the disapproval of many telephone callers who by then had become spoiled on broad in-depth purely local coverage. In explanation, the latest word from management was, in effect, "They'll come around."

For Kessler, that wasn't enough. For her quick response, see page 46.

As springtime rolls around--(and audiences and newspaper readerships dwindle as people move increasingly to the out-of-doors)--only a sharp and highly professional survey could say with certainty just which of Inyo's three radio stations garners the largest "local" audience. KIOQ probably maintains its "first" position if for no other reason than the fact that its broadcasts reach out many miles beyond the limits of KNYO and KIBS--into Mammoth's sizeable audience and as far away as Tonopah and Ridgecrest. But just where the local news purists are tuning in remains a question yet unanswered with confident assurance.

As for Inyo-Mono's various publications, either proposed or existent, all are now plainly converging toward a competitive collision in an advertising market of tight-fisted limitations. (Only a percentage of experienced

Continued page 46

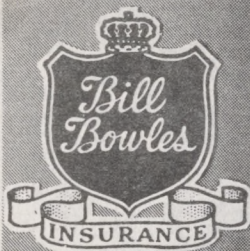


Photos:
John Heston

Kessler and KIOQ's Kerdoon

Style vs. substance on the former No. 1 news

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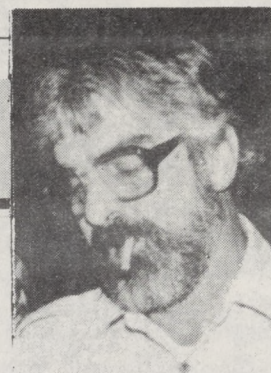
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Wally's View



Wally Charleston

NEVER ONE TO LET GO, WALLY TAKES UP THE JUDICIAL ACROBATICS BEHIND THE SCENES IN THE HANSON-DENTON CONTROVERSY, AND HE PUSHES FOR ACTION IN THE MONO EMBEZZLEMENT CASE...AND IN THE LATTER, HIS ENQUIRIES BRING ACTION

It's getting tougher to throttle down the old Muckraker in me. For sure, when it comes to reporting on Mono Politics, I'll never win popularity polls. At least not among the powers that rule us (or is that roll us?) But popularity is just a ten-letter word that fades with age. You can't take it to the bank.

For the past decade or more Mono County has been criminally mismanaged by a bunch of fuzzy-brained boozers and self-serving misfits. Although a hefty number of them got the boot in the last election, and others were forced to resign or be fired, it may very well take the next full decade to dump what's left. And that is still plenty.

The fact is, corruption and malfeasance are still deeply rooted in Mono. In spite of grand juries, attorneys general and thunderous investigative reports, a few continue to grip tightly their abusive power. What's more, they may never be made to let go. Things may even get worse.

Now, probably, the prime example of political manipulation would be that which flaws our extremely delicate justice system. Our superior courts. Our judges. It would seem incomprehensible that superior court judges who for one reason or another are assigned to *high profile* court cases involving Mono County officials or long-time friends of public officials would be whitewashing their crimes, crimes determined by our grand juries. But some disturbing facts are piling up.

These facts present the very real possibility that heavy strings were pulled in the 1978 corruption cases against ex-supervisor and ex-political boss Gene Hanson and ex-county counsel district attorney Eddy Denton. In addition, this reporter is beginning to learn about some highly irregular flim-flam that's surfacing in connection with the prosecution of Josephine Poole, charged with multiple embezzlement of \$75,000 while a county employee of the Mono General Hospital in Bridgeport.

But first, a short explanation of some of the technicalities of our legal system:

It is important to note that the system provides that defendants in any criminal matter(s) be allowed to challenge a sitting (local) judge. Second, a defendant may move to change the physical location of all proceedings related to the charges. Lawyers refer to this as *papering* the local judge and *changing venue*. Further, in fairness to a defendant, all grand jury material findings, on the motions of lawyers, can be sealed and caused to remain sealed until the public hearings begin.

1978, 1979 and 1980 were unquestionably years of traumatic political upheaval in Mono County. District Attorney/County Counsel Eddy Denton had been fired as county counsel because of apparent conflicts of interest relating to the Hanson/Denton corruption charges; however, Denton was not relieved as district attorney. Bedlam reigned while the board of supervisors scrambled to fill the county counsel position and numerous applications were looked over by the supervisors for a permanent replacement. None of the applicants met the supervisors' approval...none until Neil Van Winkle of Mariposa County. He arrived quietly in Mono County and went unobtrusively from an *interim* temporary county counsel to permanent full-time county counsel. Attorney Lewis Selby was fired to make room for him.

Back to the Hanson/Denton cases: Both of the accused public officials made their initial appearance in the courts at Bridgeport. The supervisor and the district attorney stood without expression while the corruption and misconduct charges were read sternly into the record by Mono County Superior Court Judge Harry Roberts. Following that procedure, lawyers for the defendants immediately *papered* Roberts, throwing the cases up for assignment to a judge assigned by the California Judicial Council.

Although it was never made clear to me how eligibility is arrived at in the judge selection

process, I assumed that the cases assigned went to the judge whose turn was up, the one who'd risen to the top of the list, so to speak. Further, I assumed because of possible long-term political ties or friendships that no local judge who had been *papered* or who had disqualified himself would have the power to veto any other judge selected by the judicial council to hear the matters.

Not so.

As Judge Roberts explains it, he has no power to select judges; however, in the Hanson/Denton case, he did exercise discretionary power in stating to the Judicial Council that he felt certain qualifications of experience must be met by the judge selected to hear the case. Roberts also stated that "a couple of municipal court judges" whose names were on the Judicial Council's preferred list were rejected by him.

Judge Blaine Pettitt of Fresno County, a superior court judge, became an acceptable choice to Roberts. Pettitt had previously heard and ruled on a corruption case in Mariposa County that bore striking similarities to the Hanson/Denton cases.

In Mariposa County several members of the board of supervisors had been accused of corruption and political misconduct. Judge Pettitt had, as an assigned judge, reviewed the Mariposa County grand jury's findings and struck the accusations of corruption. As county counsel to the Mariposa Board of Supervisors, Neil Van Winkle had played an integral part in the resolution of that particular corruption case. Then, in the fall of 1980, he was in Mono County, making emotional and impassioned speeches in defense of Gene Hanson who still faced misconduct charges.

How did Van Winkle get from Mariposa County to Mono County? He says he resigned his position as county counsel in Mariposa County because of *health reasons*. His doctors warned him, he states, that the pressures and rigors of the job of county counsel were more than his health could withstand. So he retired.

Continued next page



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Peppers, tomatoes, onions and home fries

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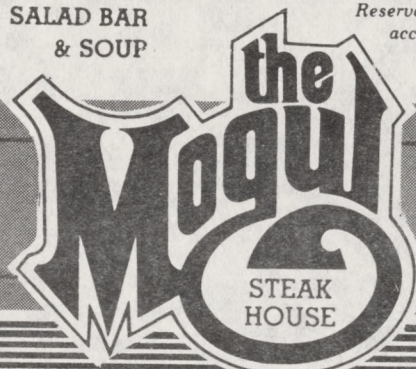
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Then, he says, while reading the advertisements in a legal journal he noticed one for another county counsel job, this one in Mono. After seeing this advertisement in three separate issues of the journal, Van Winkle states that he contacted the Mono County Board of Supervisors and offered to fill the vacancy only for the *interim period* during which the Mono supervisors sought permanent county counsel. Van Winkle's offer was accepted and he came to Bridgeport to take over temporarily the office of county counsel. (This was the period before elections when the feathers were flying over the Hanson matter. Pettitt had struck the corruption accusations and the attorney general was filing for a reinstatement of those accusations.)

Van Winkle has since accepted the position of permanent county counsel at a yearly salary that ranks among the highest paid to any county counsel in the State of California.

Bridgeport insiders who say they know, but don't wish to be named, state that Van Winkle was pushed onto the board by Gene Hanson, that the former supervisor knew Van Winkle during his previous job with the board of supervisors in Mariposa County, (supervisors and county counsels meet regularly each year

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around the state to compare notes, etc.) and was aware of his involvement with the corruption cases filed against the supervisors in Mariposa County. One member of the Bridgeport inner circle also states that Van Winkle and Hanson were well acquainted with each other long before Van Winkle appeared in Mono County, and that Van Winkle's quiet ascent to power and permanent position probably were propelled by Hanson.

But, it must be stated plainly that the inner circle speculators are just that...speculators. They fail to provide a single hard fact linking the talk to any solid foundation. But talk persists.

And in the halls of power in and around Mono County, Van Winkle may well be a figure of puzzling controversy with regard to the Hanson - Van Winkle - Pettitt confusion. But, it's evident that the personable county counsel continues to build strength and capture the confidence of the press, new board members and most department heads.

E.L. Maner, the brightest of all the bright prospects for a much-needed new beginning for our county government goes on record describing Van Winkle as a county counsel second to none in the state.

Maner and the other supervisors view Van Winkle's role in government as high-priced but money well spent in light of the shape the government is in.

Is there a more direct link between the fortunes of Hanson and Pettitt? Apparently. There's land. Lots of it, all located in what formerly was Hanson's supervisorial district and all owned by Judge Blaine Pettitt et al. The et al includes another judge, Denver Peckinpah, now retired from the California Judicial Council. The ownership of these hundreds of acres of land, all in split parcels, was not disclosed by Pettitt prior to or during the hearing of the charges against former supervisor Hanson. When asked by Eastern Sierra News Service about these real estate holdings, Pettitt claimed that he "had not known that the land I owned was in Hanson's district."

Pettitt later stated to another Mono County news person that he had disclosed the fact of the land holdings during the course of the Hanson hearing. However, when the transcripts of that hearing were obtained by this other Mono County news

person and closely examined, no such disclosure could be found.

So Pettitt recanted again, saying he'd actually disclosed his holdings in private to Judge Roberts' bailiff. This disclosure evidently went no further than Judge Roberts' bailiff during the course of the adjudication of the Hanson case. Judge Roberts states that he personally did not know of the Pettitt land holdings. Only months later, long after many of the grand jury charges of corruption against Hanson were struck by Judge Pettitt, were these large land holdings disclosed to the public when this reporter discovered them through another non-judicial source.

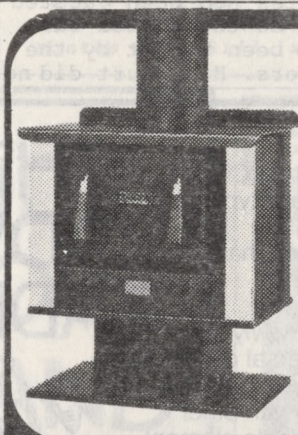
A frightening parallel to the Hanson case is the matter of Josephine Poole and the disappearance of \$75,000 from Mono General Hospital in Bridgeport. For this embezzlement Ms. Poole has been arrested, arraigned and the venue of her trial has been changed to El Dorado County. That's about all that's been done so far. It's been nearly two years and two vacated trial dates since the theft was made public. The case is now stalled

off calendar and in limbo with no further action presently scheduled.

District Attorney Eddy Denton, a long-time personal friend of both Josephine Poole, the defendant, and her husband Richard Poole, former Mono County Director of Public Works, is personally prosecuting the embezzlement case. There is still a question in the minds of many Mono County citizens about why Denton did not disqualify himself as prosecutor and defer the matter to the unbiased Attorney General. This did not happen.

Recently this reporter went to South Lake Tahoe, in El Dorado County, where the Poole case is active. (Poole's attorney, Frank Fowles of Bishop moved for a change of venue and the assignment went to Judge Terence Finney in El Dorado County.) The first stop was the court clerk/recorder's office where inquiries were made about the progress of the Poole case. The clerk/recorder went immediately to the file cabinet where the records are kept and looked for the Poole file.

She was obviously surprised and disturbed when she could not find the file in its logical place. She called the court clerk



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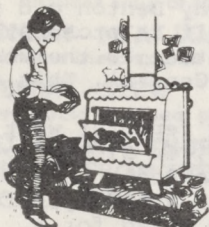
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in Placerville, the El Dorado County seat, to determine the whereabouts of the file, and was further surprised to discover that the Poole file had been forwarded to Placerville. At that point the conversation between the two clerks overheard by this reporter was one-sided, consisting primarily of the South Lake Tahoe clerk repeating for clarification the information being given to her over the telephone by the Placerville clerk.

The South Lake Tahoe clerk asked why the Poole file was in Placerville while the case was still active in South Lake Tahoe. Then she repeated "the dates... two trial dates... were vacated by the District Attorney from Mono County?" She asked what the current status of the case was. "In limbo?" When the telephone conversation ended, the clerk told me that obviously I had overheard all that had been discovered. She cut me off at that point and referred me to Judge Finney for all further questions, directing me to his courtroom across the hall.

At noon I met with Judge Finney and discussed the status of the Poole case with him, at which time he acknowledged that two trial dates had been vacated and informed me that "plea bargaining" had been sought by the defense lawyers. His court did no

plea bargaining, he stated. As to the status of the case, he stated that it was his fault that no trial date had been rescheduled and that the case remained "off calendar." He also advised me that District Attorney Ed Denton had requested a new date but that he "hadn't gotten around to it yet."

Meanwhile, back at the ranch, Ed Denton had taken a 30-day leave of absence for a Boston trip (Insider Joke: "Probably by way of New Jersey") and the Poole case rests comfortably and quietly somewhere "off calendar" in El Dorado County. Asked for his comments on the status of the Poole case, Judge Harry Roberts stated that "cases off calendar often get lost. I often worry about that." Then he quickly recovered and offered the hope that Judge Finney's system was more efficient than his own and the Poole case would eventually be found again.

"But you know," he concluded, "sometimes it's years before someone like Wally Charleston asks about a case like this."

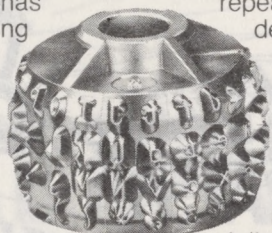
The integrity of our justice system is or should be a constant concern to all citizens in these times. There is an enormous respect for the men and women who wear the impressive black flow-

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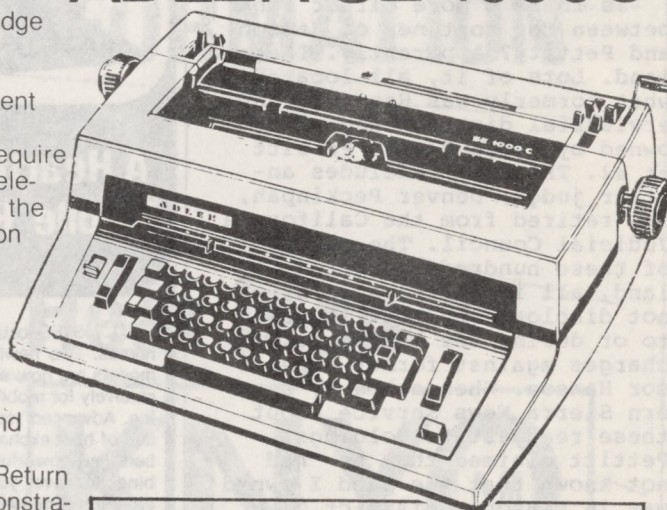
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The Hanson/Denton cases, as they relate to Judge Blaine Pettitt, are now local history. They are blemished with unanswered questions and undisclosed special interests on the part of a superior court judge. The taxpayers shelled out hundreds of thousands of dollars in the furtherance of these cases and were insulted in the end with a bill for their defense costs. We were, essentially, deprived of justice, then billed for it.

About the Poole case, no end can yet be written to that at this time. We do, however, insist that it be placed back on the active calendar and properly adjudicated.

The readers of this column will be kept informed.

This report reveals the ways political officials use the law and the courts to cover up the crimes of friends. Next issue,

this reporter hopes to explain how these same political officials used the law and the courts to attempt to frame those who would expose them.

Wally

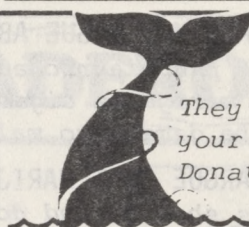
(Editor's note: Shortly after reporter Charleston began looking into the delay of the Josephine Poole trial court officials did finally set a date--March 9. But, once more, another delay, and the trial was continued until May 4. Reports indicated that the Eldorado County judge first had to hear a murder trial.

Meanwhile, Charleston reflected on still another case involving DA Ed Denton: "It's amazing," commented WC, "how Denton gets involved in cases where he has had long-term relationships or friendships with the defendants and/or their families. Those defendants seem to end up with light sentences." Charleston pointed to the "Tom Hill case."

In that matter, some months ago, Hill, who was a

building department employee, was accused of altering documents which were later used in a case against building department inspector Lew Covert." Charleston says a district attorney's investigator managed to "get a confession from Hill." DA Denton took charge and the felony charge of altering documents was dropped to that of a misdemeanor. "Hill spent a week in the Mono County jail and not only did he get his job back...but got promoted to chief building inspector."

Says Charleston: Denton was a long-time friend of Hill's family.)



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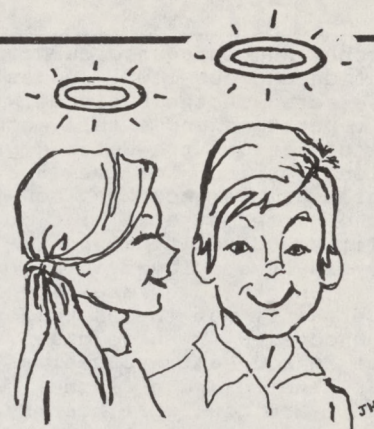
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Dope? ...not MY kids!



ARE MY KIDS ON DOPE? - First, don't be fooled; you'd probably prefer to think that YOUR kids are "different," that they're not into drugs. Chances are, you're wrong. Watch for the signs: failing or sliding grades, red eyes, lethargy, defensiveness, and belligerent behavior. His or her former interests may wane; they may seem vague or withdrawn - a tendency to oversleep, difficulty in concentrating.

YOUR CHILDREN MAY ARGUE ABOUT "PROOFS" OF DOPE EFFECTS OR DAMAGE. Later studies of medical and psychiatric authorities all agree: Dope is hazardous, causes depressed minds. One marijuana cigarette causes more lung damage than 20 tobacco cigarettes. There may be damage to male and female reproductive systems, and to the brain.

SOME KIDS ARGUE THAT MARIJUANA HAS NO RELATIONSHIP TO "HARD" DRUGS. Not true. Recent studies show beyond doubt that at least 26% of "pot" users move on to cocaine, or even to heroin. The body develops a tolerance to marijuana and after awhile the "kicks" are no longer there. Also, "pot" users are exposed to the class of people, the pushers, that urge harder, more profitable drugs, on them.

"MOM AND DAD SMOKE AND DRINK. SO WHY CAN'T I USE DRUGS?" A good argument perhaps, but it won't hold up. First off, two wrongs don't make a right, and, secondly, Mom and Dad are more mature, better able (sometimes) to handle their habits. Besides - alcohol leaves the system quickly, in a few hours; marijuana and other drugs leave a residue that tends to collect in the system.

WHY ARE KIDS ATTRACTED TO THE STUFF? First, there's the peer group pressure, and a youngster's desperate need to "join," to be accepted by the crowd. Also there is a sense of well-being caused by drugs, a relaxation of normal fears among young people who sometimes have difficulty with responsibilities or emotions. Some will become addicted simply for the feeling of "pleasure" it seems to give them. Drug use is also a good way for youngsters to "get back" at authority or parental "rules."

THE KIDS ARGUE THAT THEY'RE NOT HURTING "ANYONE BUT THEMSELVES" Again, this is not true. Money paid for drugs goes almost directly into the pockets of the fat cats - the people who are known to be in organized crime, and who are ready anytime to go to any means, including murder, to protect their interests. Also, drug use damages the family structure and is costly either for purchase or for later medical costs.

HOW ABOUT THE ARGUMENTS TO "LEGALIZE" DRUGS? Forget it, even though it may seem to be "practical." No nation or society in history has long survived after its system of laws surrendered all control of so-called "moral" issues. Unlike the production of alcohol, production of marijuana and opium poppies is hard to control by "regulation."

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Notes from B.K.

A NEW KIND OF INYO SCOOP FOR TV REPORTER JIM MITCHELL / PLANS FOR AN ALL-NEW NEWS-LETTER (TWICE EACH MONTH?) / ECHOING THE CONTINUING GRUMBLES OVER THE "FLOAT" FIASCO / DEE OR "PEARL"?



Benett Kessler

RUMOR CONTROL DEPARTMENT: It is apparently not true that Don Bickle plans to start yet another bank in the Eastern Sierra. Bickle, a former Security Pacific official (and before that an officer of the old Inyo-Mono Bank) said that right now he is "enjoying a life of leisure." And why not? Bickle, along with several other major stockholders in the Inyo-Mono Bank, is reported to have made a killing when Security Pacific bought Inyo-Mono. But as for starting another bank, well, that's something else, and Bickle says he has no such plans. The area's newest bank, Bank of Mammoth, is meanwhile said to be faring quite well, thank you. B of M prez Wayne Wedeking last month announced with understandable pride that his infant institution is rapidly growing - now up to \$7 million in assets. That's a figure larger than anticipated for this early in the game. Wedeking, too, was a part of the old I-M chain. A little miffed when he got edged out of a top spot in Bishop's SP office, he did start another bank.

LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT, or something like that: Judging from the number of enquiries we've had, some of you are wondering about the whereabouts of *News-Letter* partner Patricia Duncan. It seems

Her ticket out

News service partner Patricia Duncan remained in the background when television reporter Jim Mitchell was in Inyo to cover the child molestation cases in Big Pine. They later "met" at a Bishop party.



Duncan has opted to give up the ulcer factory in Independence for smog - and love - in Los Angeles. Her ticket out? None other than LA's Channel 2 television newsman Jim Mitchell who on recent weekends had been hanging in obvious loneliness around the news service office at Independence. Mitchell and Duncan met at a party

in Bishop given by attorneys Paul Rudder and Ed Forstenzer for Inyo's new lawyer, Kenney Scruggs. From there on in, it was a Romeo and Juliet attraction all the way. The sudden bonding strengthened as the phone lines between Independence and L.A. stayed busy over the next few weeks and, finally, in a matter of minutes, Duncan made up her mind, leaving only a departing note by way of explanation. It has been suggested that wedding bells have been heard ringing in the far distance but up to now we haven't heard about a definite date for any possible leap into the orange blossoms.

AND SO, LATE AGAIN: Duncan's unannounced departure did little to help speed along *News-Letter's* publication dates. And so...after a complete reorganization, the injection of some working capital, equipment, and a Duncan replacement, the *News-Letter's* minor disaster may yet turn into a plus for the readers. After this edition, we're planning a whole "new look", and twice-a-month publication. Stay tuned, but meanwhile, for more information on what's happening not only here, but in the other media in Inyo-Mono, see a story elsewhere in these pages....

PEOPLE ARE STILL TALKING, months later, about the Bishop "float" fiasco. Seems a number of business people got together to collect twenty grand, no less, to co-sponsor (with the City of Montebello) a float in the Rose Parade. For their efforts and cash Bishop received about three seconds television exposure (in a camera long shot) of the float, and not even a mention in the Rose Bowl Parade program. Ah, well, life's a crap game and you can't win 'em all. The twenty thou that went down the tube (instead of on it) could have bought at least two 30-second commercial spots on net television. Advertising and public relations are no longer the simple "promotions" they used to be. Such gimmicks as a co-sponsored float went out with the Eisenhower days of the 50's, and PR and advertising have become highly sophisticated sciences involving surveys, market research, and very professional copy and camera work. For \$20,000 the whole county could enjoy the services of a trained professional PR and advertising man who could not only bring in the tourists, but also handle the crucial PR work in the water issue.

TRAVELERS: To New Zealand, Australia, Fiji and Tahiti, Mammoth Contractor Rudy Moralis. Headed in the same direction, another contractor, Ken Kessler of Bishop. To Singapore, Sam Dean of Bishop. Booked for a Hawaii trip: some 20 members of the Mammoth High graduating class, after graduation of course. Returned from a cruise on

the "Love Boat" : Don Bickle (see above) who did the Panama bit.

NOW THAT THE ROCK'S GONE, so are most of the troublesome types who used to hang around Bishop's Whiskey Creek to guzzle beer and listen to noise. When the management got rid of the country and rock bands, the clientele improved immeasurably, which has got to be good news for the after-five crowd, and the diners. The silence is music to our ears, and so, thanks. Later, this summer, a welcome innovation for Inyo: a softer sound, "lounge music." Thanks, now we can hear ourselves talk.

NOW IT CAN BE TOLD: One of the Inyo supervisors is less than wildly happy about his name which, we are told, is "Pearl." It seems that Supervisor P.D. Cook's first county pay check was made out to "Pearl Cook", his "legal" name, and he wasted no time in setting things right. Cook's preference is to be known as "Dee" Cook. Okay, Dee, but we do think "Pearl" is kind of cute...Right?

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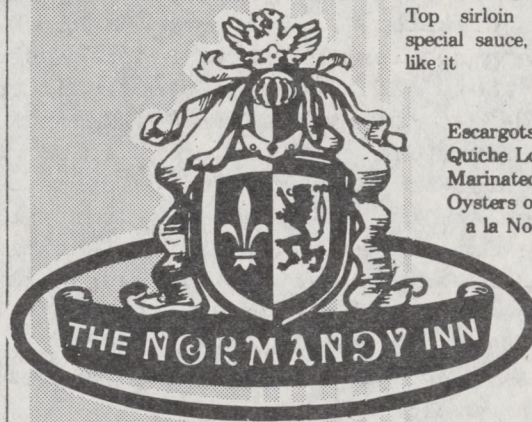
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CALLING IT QUILTS AT KIOQ

THE NEWS MOVES TO KMMT, KNYO

Claiming KIOQ "is not
running my stories,"
Kessler goes elsewhere



For weeks, ever since Bishop's KIOQ brought in a new news director (P.35), there had been more and more Kerdoon and less and less Benett-Kessler. Inexplicably, there had also been a heavy increase of "state news" at the expense of Kessler's "local news" - a situation that had prompted scores of complaining calls to Kessler's Independence office from an audience she had built up over the past four years with KIOQ. So, at the end of March, she claimed KIOQ had broken the agreement she had made with its previous management, and she called it quits. Now, from Mammoth's KMMT and Lone Pine's KNYO, she, along with the news service's reporter Marilyn Fisher, will cover the same audience.

Media continued -

businessmen have truly realized the value--in high dollar profits--of consistent advertising). In this, a day of increasingly high publications costs, disturbingly high interest rates and galling distribution problems, news publishing is not a field lightly entered into. Wellman's plans for a daily newspaper (It will also cover Mammoth he says) may yet materialize; his colleagues and fellow sufferers, even a number of his apparent news competitors, seem now to be pulling for him. But the investments involved are not small, and fast "cash flow" for news media is non-existent. Scores of aspiring publishers in the U.S. each year paper their walls and fill scrapbooks and memoirs with the yellowing pages of now-defunct newspapers.

But out of it all -- the hirings, the firings, the knee-jerk reactions and quick changes of direction or emphasis--"the media" of Inyo-Mono has finally begun to sound like a serious public voice. Official agencies, politicians, bureaus and utilities agencies are beginning to take notice--sometimes with stunned concern. The public is beginning to discover in a very real way just what had been going on all the time in government, and the public seems to be reacting. Up in Mono County, for instance, a miniscule part of "the media" had been nothing more than a three-or-four-page typewritten hand-out--the now infamous *Muckraker*. The *Muckraker* literally brought down a



Wally Charleston
...a miniscule part?

large segment of the administration of the Mono County government and effected election defeats for more than one county supervisor. (The *Muckraker*'s noisy publisher, Wally Charleston, later joined the *News-Letter* as

Continued page 48

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Media, continued

a columnist.)

With the discovery of such evident press power, either published or broadcast, the station owners and the publishers raced into a frantic competition for talent. Emerging suddenly as one of the single most sought-after was Chalfant's reporter-photographer, Marilyn Fisher, who was surprised and more than a little flattered by all the attention. For weeks, the 25-year-old Fisher was hotly pursued by virtually every established or proposed media outlet from Mammoth to Independence. Fisher is a journalism graduate of Cal State Northridge who came to Bishop from an internship on the *Los Angeles Times*. Her media suitors found her to be sharp of eye in photography, accurate of term in writing, and knowledgeable in both print media production and radio. The wooing began almost immediately after word got out that Fisher--not unlike Crabtree--might be shopping for a spot better suited to her talents. In January and February Fisher engaged in almost constant negotiations with a radio representative, with the *Lakes District Review*, with Wellman and with Eastern Sierra News Service. In the same time period she was also deluged with offers from San Diego, Dallas, the Hawaiian Islands and virtually every other place she had ever previously applied for a job.

Once assured that *News-Letter* planned to increase its publications to twice-a-month, she joined forces with Bennett Kessler.

Through it all, the area's reporters and editors were getting to know each other, were in fact virtually tripping over each other--sometimes abrasively--at any public event warranting coverage. And the public was now at last getting the real news, and getting it on a highly competitive basis. Maybe it was time for the newsfolk to get to better know each other, and to set up game plans and game rules...

For several months, *News-Letter* editor John Heston had talked vaguely off and on about the need of an "Inyo-Mono Press Club." For starters, he called a dinner meeting at Mammoth's Captain's Table Restaurant and for a speaker he turned up with a "name" well respected by newsmen everywhere--no less than Bill Farr of the *Los Angeles Times*, now famous for his Manson case coverage that landed him in jail. Until recently, Farr had been president of the Los Angeles Press Club where Heston had earlier met him as a member. Farr flew into the Eastern Sierra to tell the gathered newspeople that



New press club president Marilyn Fisher

"...shopping for a spot better suited to her talents"

they'd be wise to keep their new press club out of the hands of their bosses, the governmental bureaus and the public relations people, and allow only "working newspeople" to manage it. In a unanimous vote, they agreed.

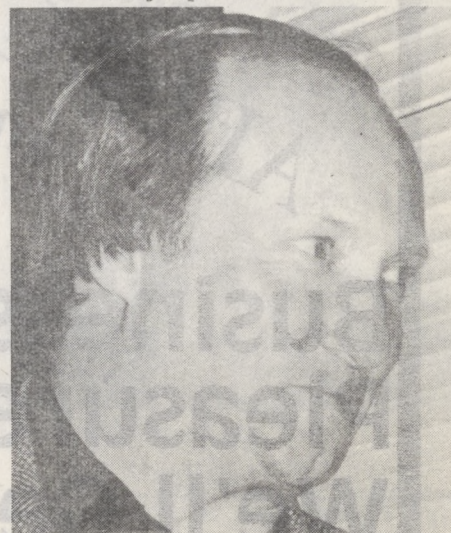
Then, at a second organizational meeting, the new club's membership turned out at Bishop's Enrico's Restaurant to elect officers. A dark-horse candidate, one who over many months had earned the respect of all, was both surprised and pleased. The choice for the club's first president: Marilyn Fisher.

One medium that has yet to be tapped, as far as local news coverage is concerned, is television.

In past years a group of volunteers had come together to produce some local TV programming, but as far as news content was concerned, coverage was on a hit-or-miss basis. The Community Video Project--or CVP 3 for short--used the Bishop Cable channel 3 to show everything from local sports and an occasional public meeting, to student-produced programs.

Now, however, CVP 3 will move to channel 12 to make room for Bishop Cable's new Home Box Office offerings and there seems to be a new commitment to

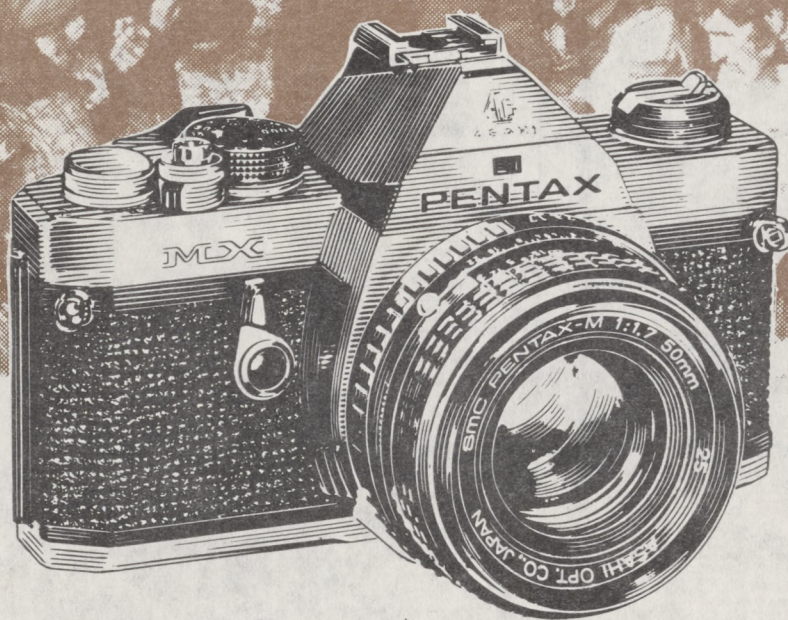
regular coverage of city news events. At the end of March a dry run was held at a recent Bishop City Council meeting in preparation for regular, live broadcast of the twice-a-month sessions. Regular coverage of the meetings in their entirety is expected to begin in early April.



Press Club speaker Farr
..with some good advice about government bureaus and public relations types...

Photo: Marilyn Fisher

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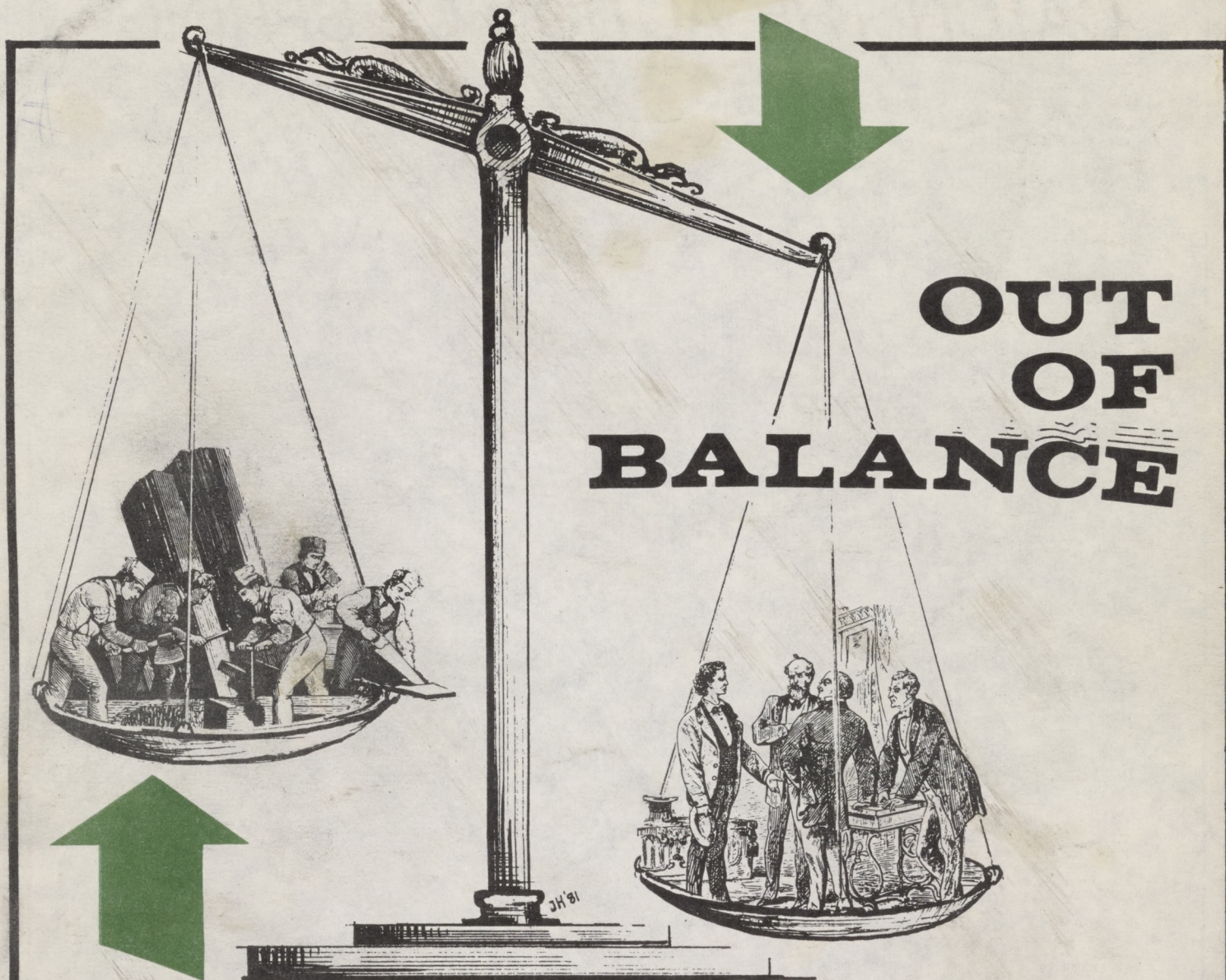
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More and more these days, it seems the American businessman--even the small businessman--is regulated by the government to the point where he feels he is no longer in control of his own destiny. Agency upon costly agency crops up, each thrusting volumes of rules, regulations, and burdensome paperwork into business firms struggling to make a go of it in an otherwise "free enterprise" system. At what point does government cease to work "for the people" and begin to impede the growth of business?

Clearly, there is a need for a delicate balance... an equilibrium between a free enterprise system responsible enough to make excessive regulations unnecessary, and a government responsive enough to recognize the harmful effects of over-regulation. In the end, everyone will benefit when the scales fall evenly into balance.



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